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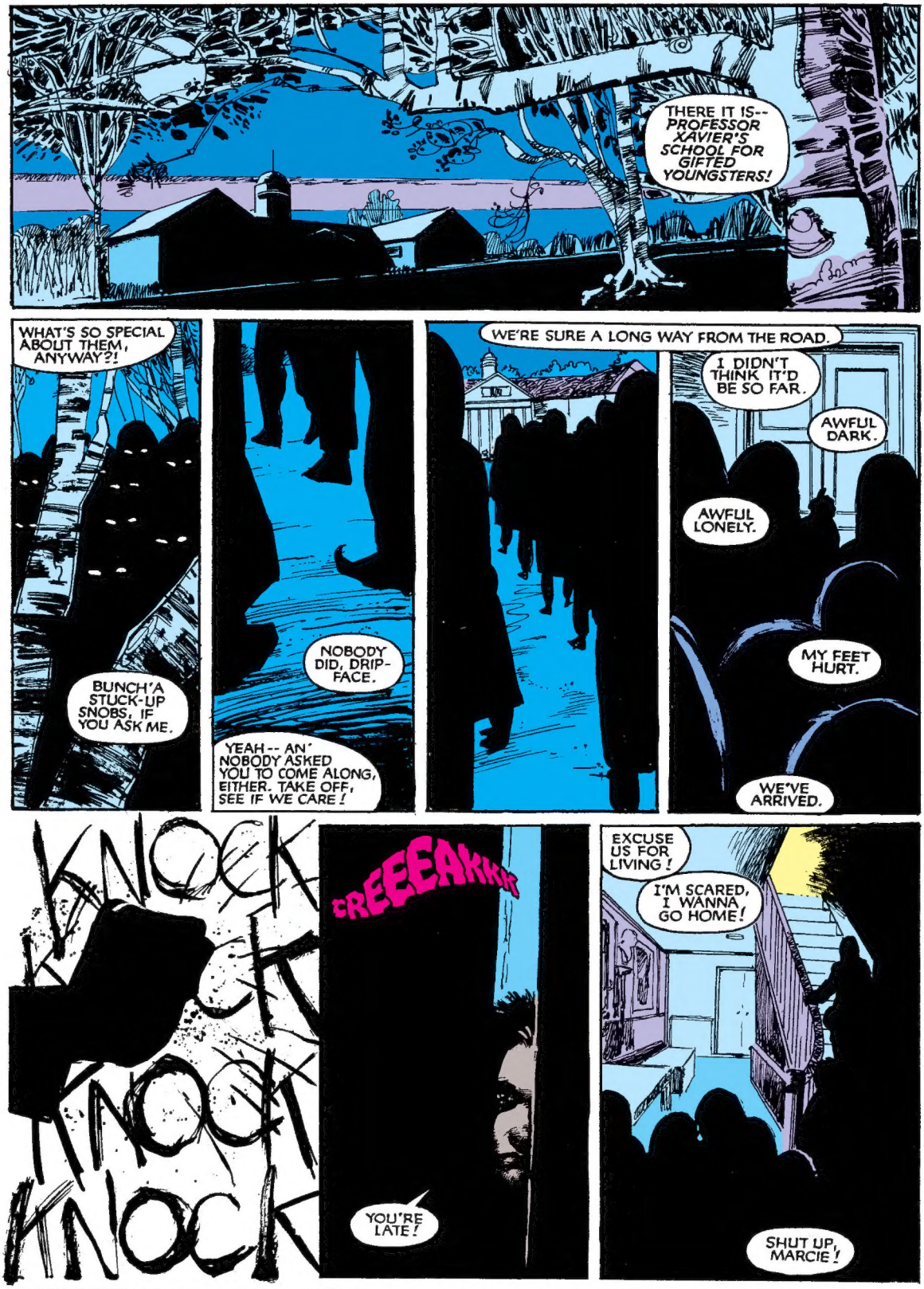
21 NOV

a deadly double-sized issue

THE NEW MUTANTS™

BILL SIENKIEWICZ

SLUMBER PARTY


THERE IT IS-- PROFESSOR XAVIER'S SCHOOL FOR GIFTED YOUNGSTERS!
WHAT'S SO SPECIAL ABOUT THEM, ANYWAY?!
BUNCH'A STUCK-UP SNOBS, IF YOU ASK ME.
NOBODY DID, DRIP-FACE.
YEAH-- AN' NOBODY ASKED YOU TO COME ALONG, EITHER. TAKE OFF, SEE IF WE CARE!
WE'RE SURE A LONG WAY FROM THE ROAD.
I DIDN'T THINK IT'D BE SO FAR.
AWFUL DARK.
AWFUL LONELY.
MY FEET HURT.
WE'VE ARRIVED.
KNOCK KNOCK KNOCK
CREEEAKKK
YOU'RE LATE!
EXCUSE US FOR LIVING!
I'M SCARED, I WANNA GO HOME!
SHUT UP, MARCIE!

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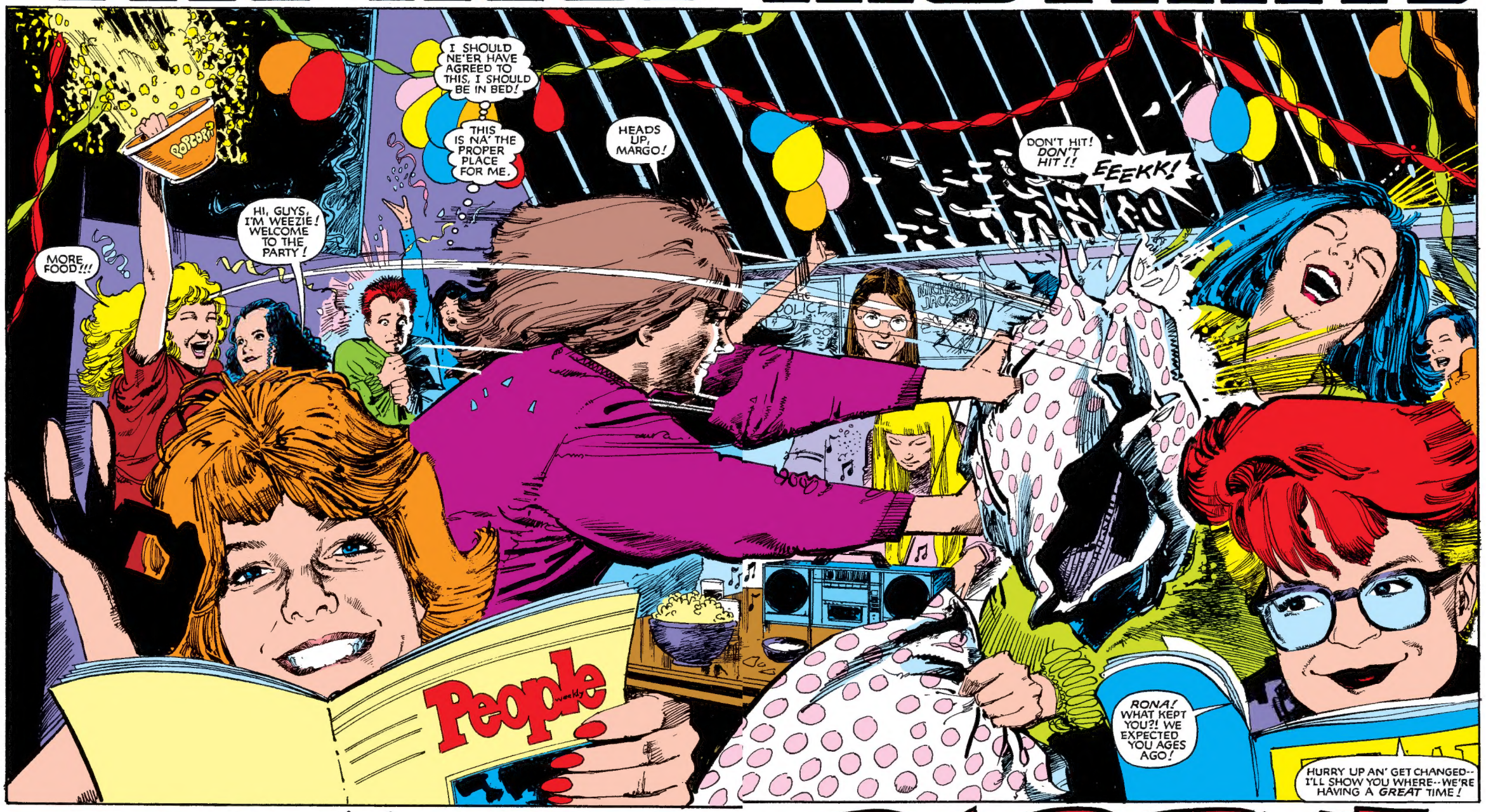
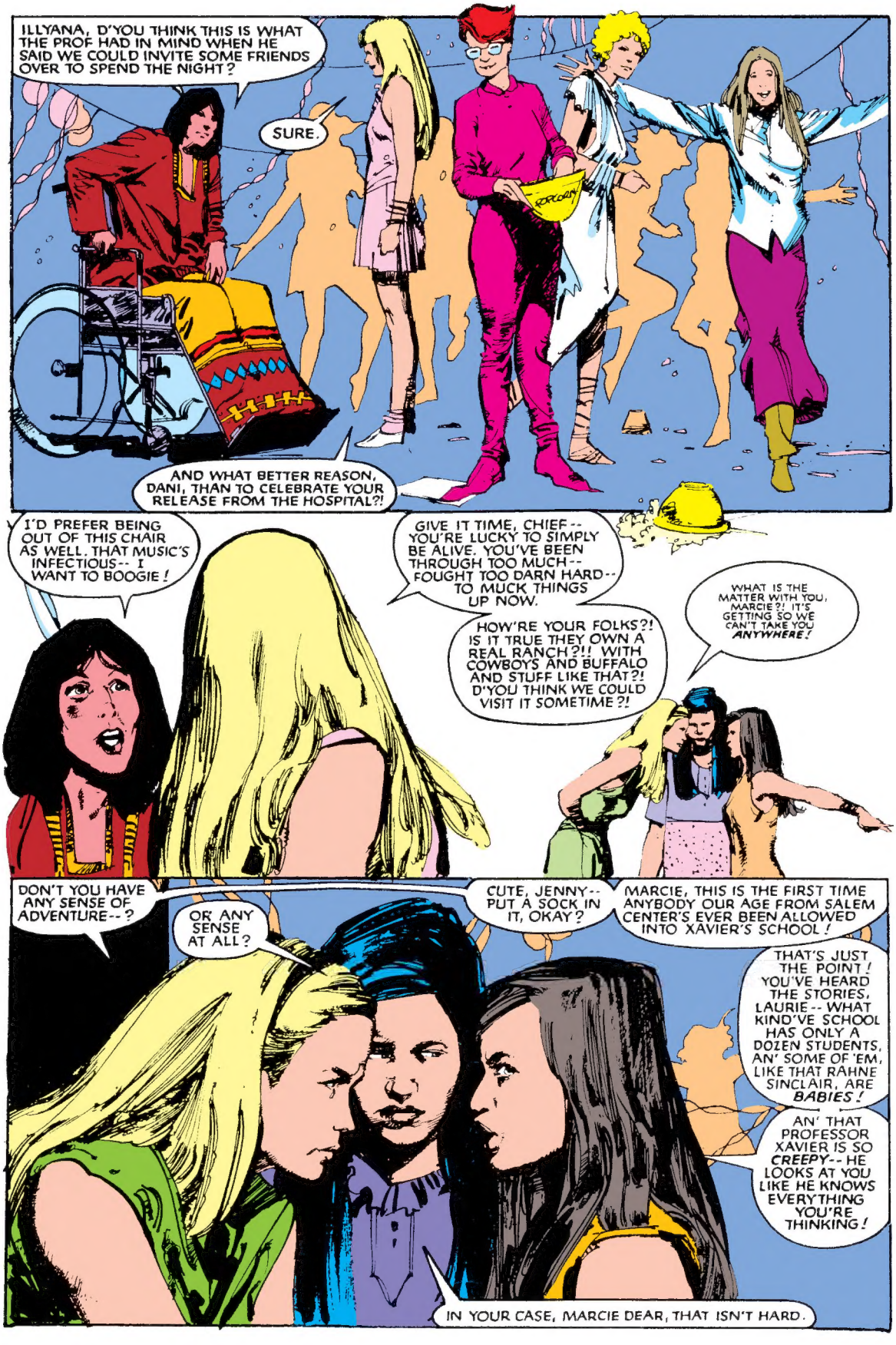
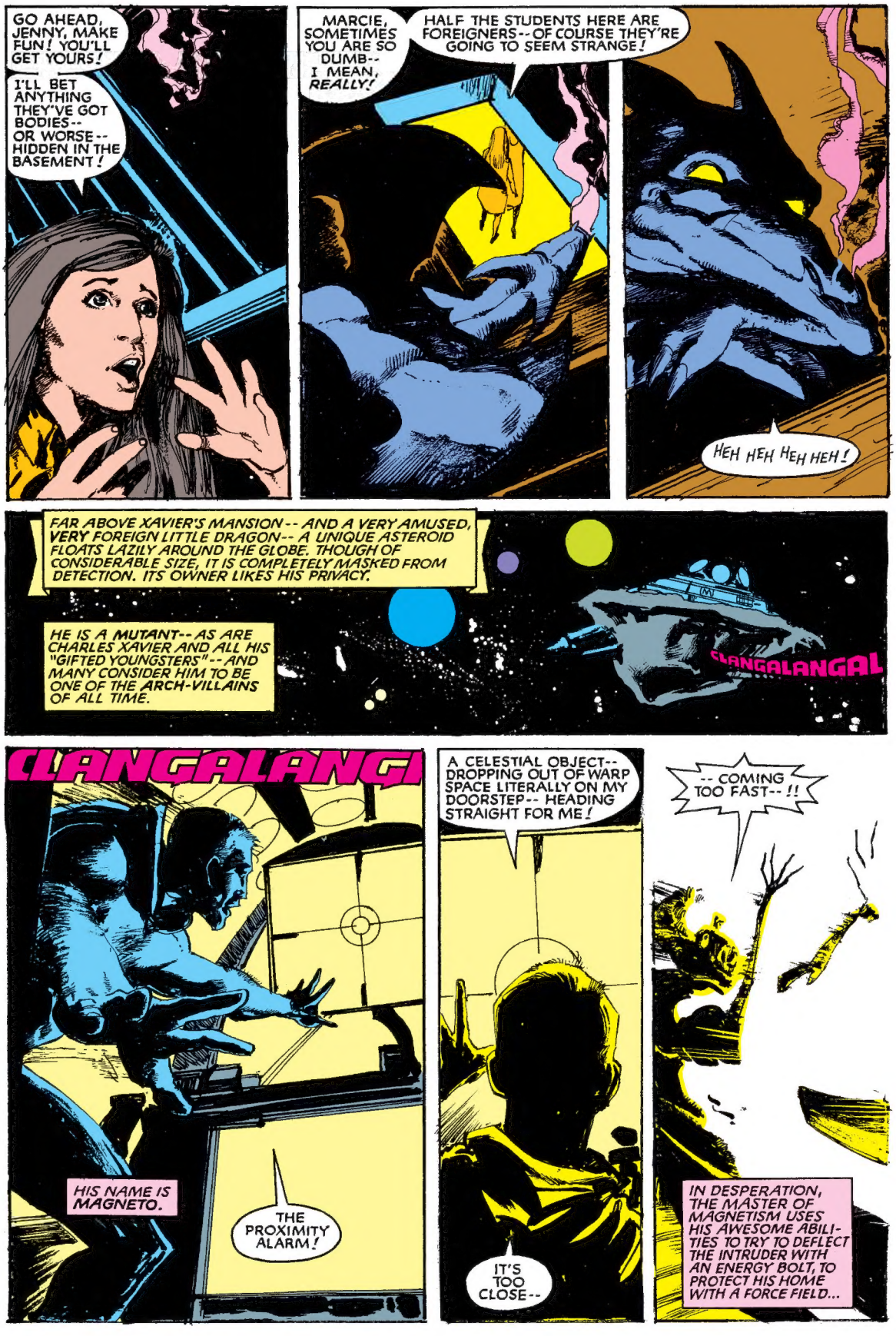
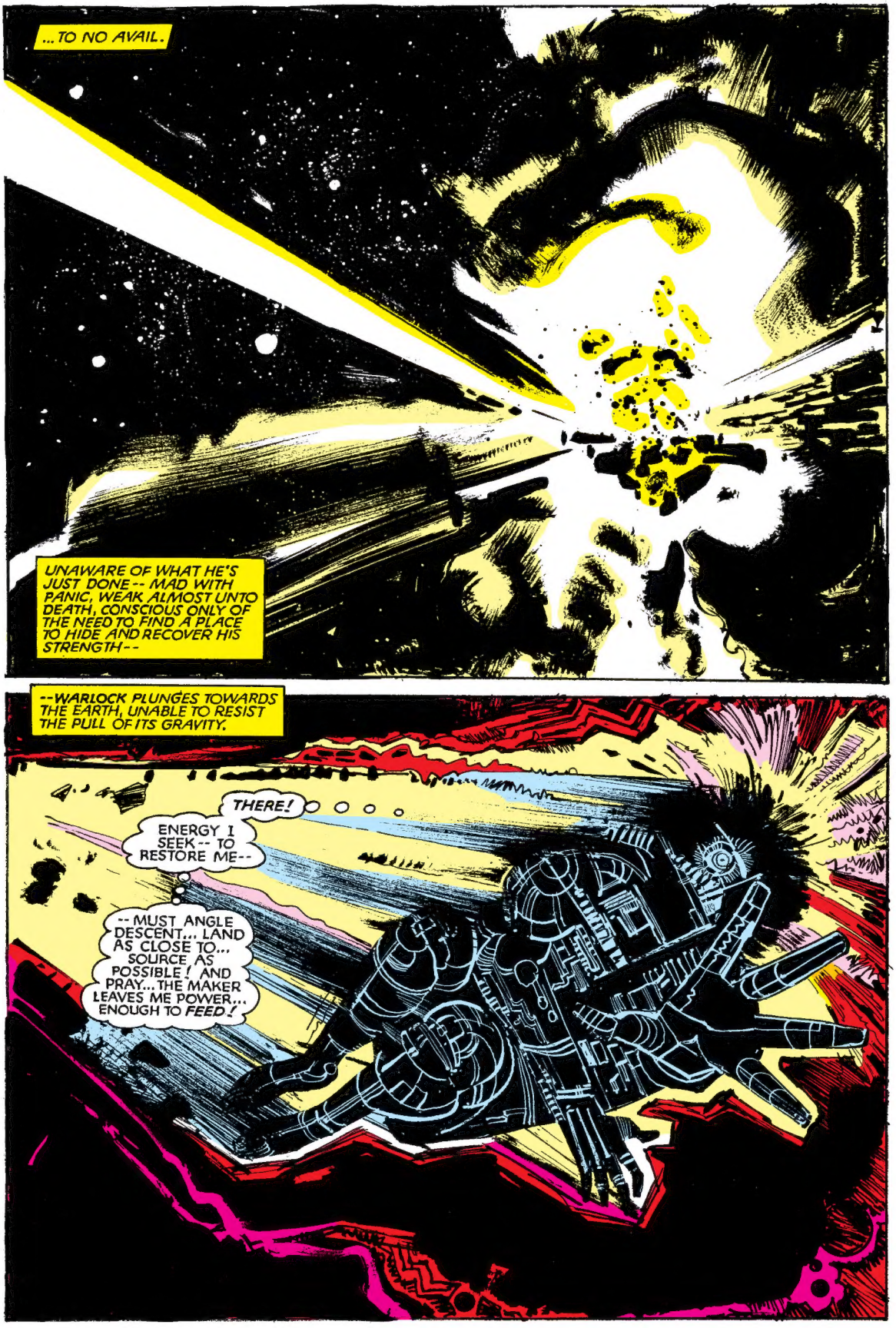
THE NEW MUTANTS


I SHOULD NE'ER HAVE AGREED TO THIS, I SHOULD BE IN BED!
THIS IS NA' THE PROPER PLACE FOR ME.
HEADS UP, MARGO!
DON'T HIT! DON'T HIT!!
EEEKK!
HI, GUYS, I'M WEEZIE! WELCOME TO THE PARTY!
MORE FOOD!!!
POPCORN
People
RONA! WHAT KEPT YOU?! WE EXPECTED YOU AGES AGO!
HURRY UP AN' GET CHANGED-- I'LL SHOW YOU WHERE--WE'RE HAVING A *GREAT* TIME!

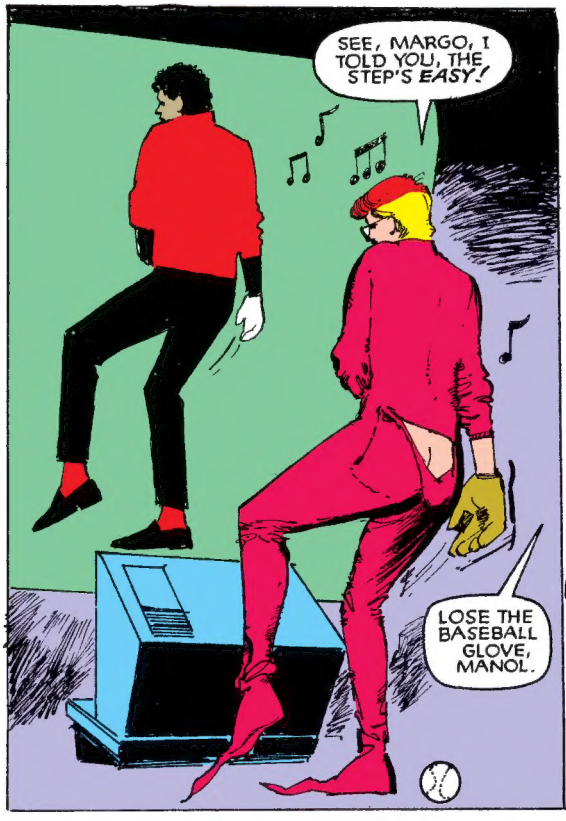
SLUMBER PARTY!

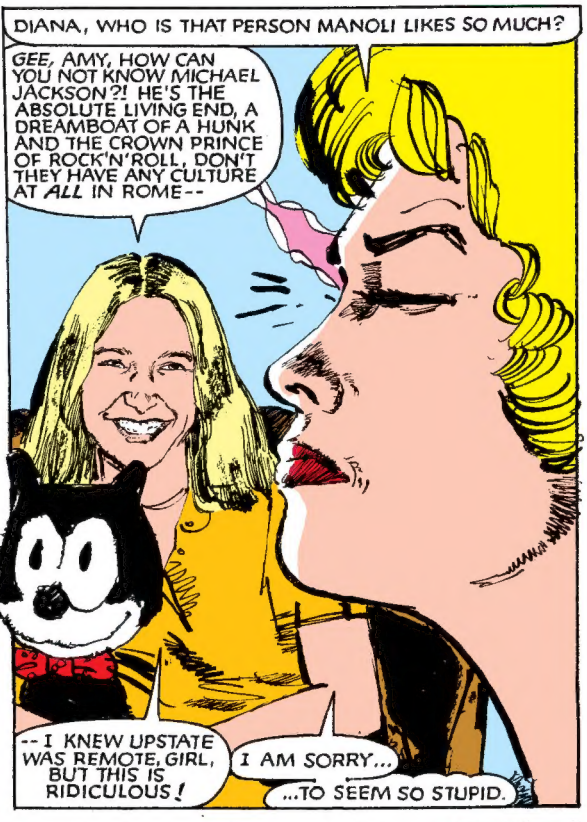

ILLYANA, D'YOU THINK THIS IS WHAT THE PROF HAD IN MIND WHEN HE SAID WE COULD INVITE SOME FRIENDS OVER TO SPEND THE NIGHT?
SURE.
AND WHAT BETTER REASON, DANI, THAN TO CELEBRATE YOUR RELEASE FROM THE HOSPITAL?!
I'D PREFER BEING OUT OF THIS CHAIR AS WELL. THAT MUSIC'S INFECTIOUS-- I WANT TO BOOGIE!
GIVE IT TIME, CHIEF-- YOU'RE LUCKY TO SIMPLY BE ALIVE. YOU'VE BEEN THROUGH TOO MUCH-- FOUGHT TOO DARN HARD-- TO MUCK THINGS UP NOW.
HOW'RE YOUR FOLKS?! IS IT TRUE THEY OWN A REAL RANCH?!! WITH COWBOYS AND BUFFALO AND STUFF LIKE THAT?! D'YOU THINK WE COULD VISIT IT SOMETIME?!
WHAT IS THE MATTER WITH YOU, MARCIE?! IT'S GETTING SO WE CAN'T TAKE YOU ANYWHERE!
DON'T YOU HAVE ANY SENSE OF ADVENTURE--?
OR ANY SENSE AT ALL?
CUTE, JENNY-- PUT A SOCK IN IT, OKAY?
MARCIE, THIS IS THE FIRST TIME ANYBODY OUR AGE FROM SALEM CENTER'S EVER BEEN ALLOWED INTO XAVIER'S SCHOOL!
THAT'S JUST THE POINT! YOU'VE HEARD THE STORIES, LAURIE-- WHAT KIND'VE SCHOOL HAS ONLY A DOZEN STUDENTS, AN' SOME OF 'EM, LIKE THAT RAHNE SINCLAIR, ARE BABIES!
AN' THAT PROFESSOR XAVIER IS SO CREEPY-- HE LOOKS AT YOU LIKE HE KNOWS EVERYTHING YOU'RE THINKING!
IN YOUR CASE, MARCIE DEAR, THAT ISN'T HARD.

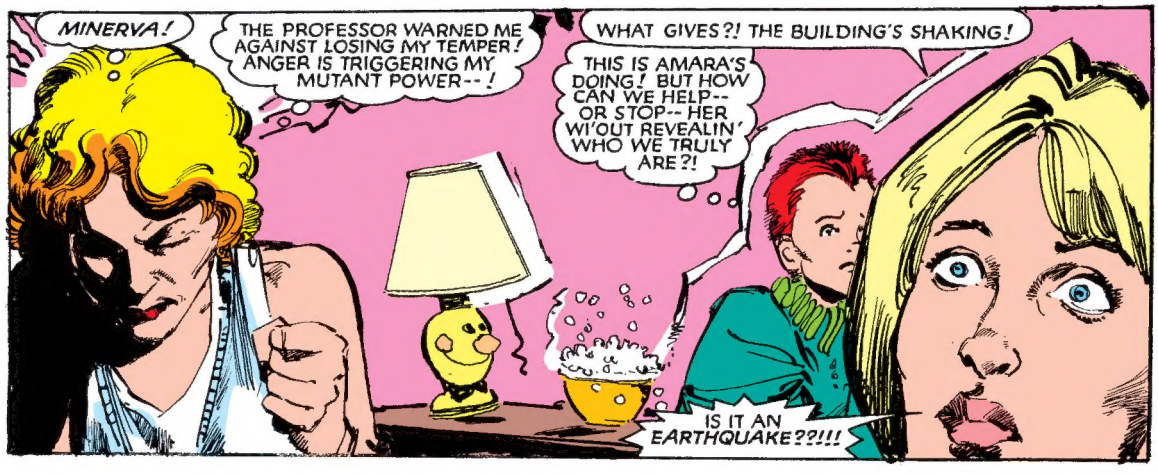

GO AHEAD, JENNY, MAKE FUN! YOU'LL GET YOURS!
I'LL BET ANYTHING THEY'VE GOT BODIES-- OR WORSE-- HIDDEN IN THE BASEMENT!
MARCIE, SOMETIMES YOU ARE SO DUMB-- I MEAN, REALLY!
HALF THE STUDENTS HERE ARE FOREIGNERS-- OF COURSE THEY'RE GOING TO SEEM STRANGE!
HEH HEH HEH HEH!
FAR ABOVE XAVIER'S MANSION-- AND A VERY AMUSED, VERY FOREIGN LITTLE DRAGON-- A UNIQUE ASTEROID FLOATS LAZILY AROUND THE GLOBE. THOUGH OF CONSIDERABLE SIZE, IT IS COMPLETELY MASKED FROM DETECTION. ITS OWNER LIKES HIS PRIVACY.
HE IS A MUTANT-- AS ARE CHARLES XAVIER AND ALL HIS "GIFTED YOUNGSTERS"-- AND MANY CONSIDER HIM TO BE ONE OF THE ARCH-VILLAINS OF ALL TIME.
CLANGALANGAL
CLANGALANGI
HIS NAME IS MAGNETO.
THE PROXIMITY ALARM!
A CELESTIAL OBJECT-- DROPPING OUT OF WARP SPACE LITERALLY ON MY DOORSTEP-- HEADING STRAIGHT FOR ME!
IT'S TOO CLOSE--
-- COMING TOO FAST-- !!
IN DESPERATION, THE MASTER OF MAGNETISM USES HIS AWESOME ABILITIES TO TRY TO DEFLECT THE INTRUDER WITH AN ENERGY BOLT, TO PROTECT HIS HOME WITH A FORCE FIELD...

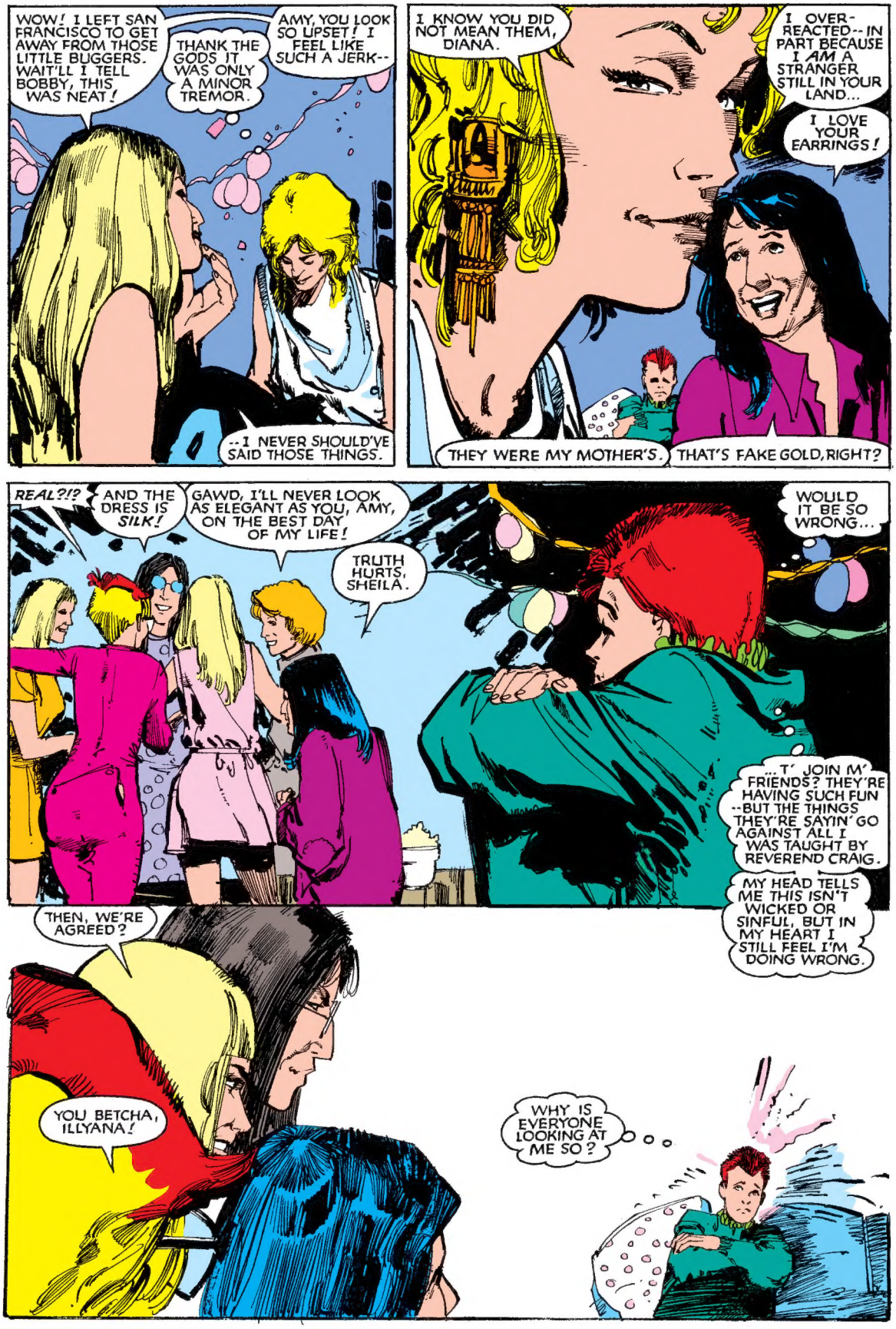

...TO NO AVAIL.
UNAWARE OF WHAT HE'S JUST DONE -- MAD WITH PANIC, WEAK ALMOST UNTO DEATH, CONSCIOUS ONLY OF THE NEED TO FIND A PLACE TO HIDE AND RECOVER HIS STRENGTH--
--WARLOCK PLUNGES TOWARDS THE EARTH, UNABLE TO RESIST THE PULL OF ITS GRAVITY.
THERE!
ENERGY I SEEK -- TO RESTORE ME--
--MUST ANGLE DESCENT... LAND AS CLOSE TO... SOURCE AS POSSIBLE! AND PRAY... THE MAKER LEAVES ME POWER... ENOUGH TO FEED!

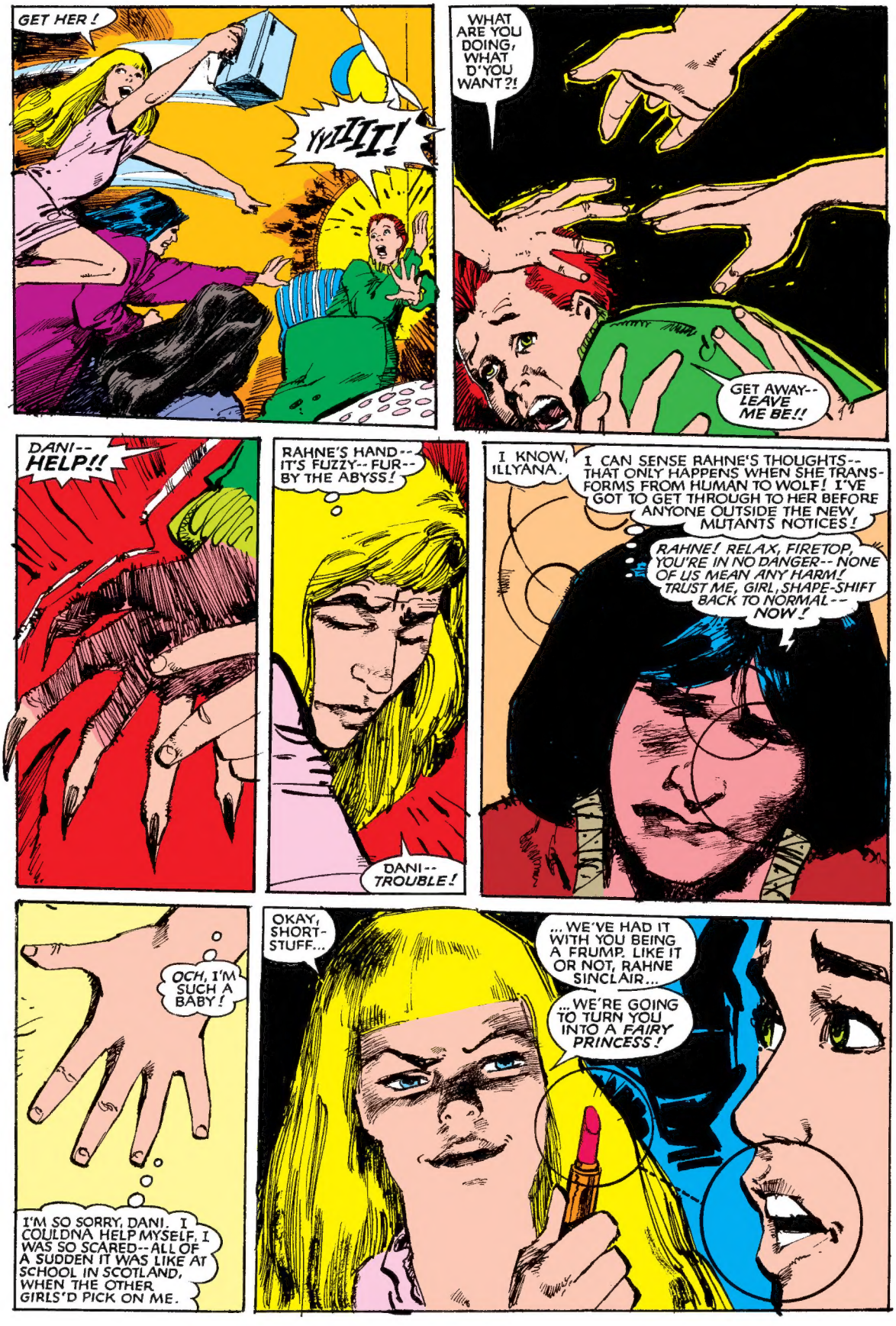
YATTA TOM SELLECK YA
TA GIGGLE YATTAYA
TTA BOD YATTA DATE
YATTAYATTAYA
TA YOU WISH Y
TTA ♡♡ YA
YATTA TOM SELLE
GIGGLE YATT
YATTA
SIGH!

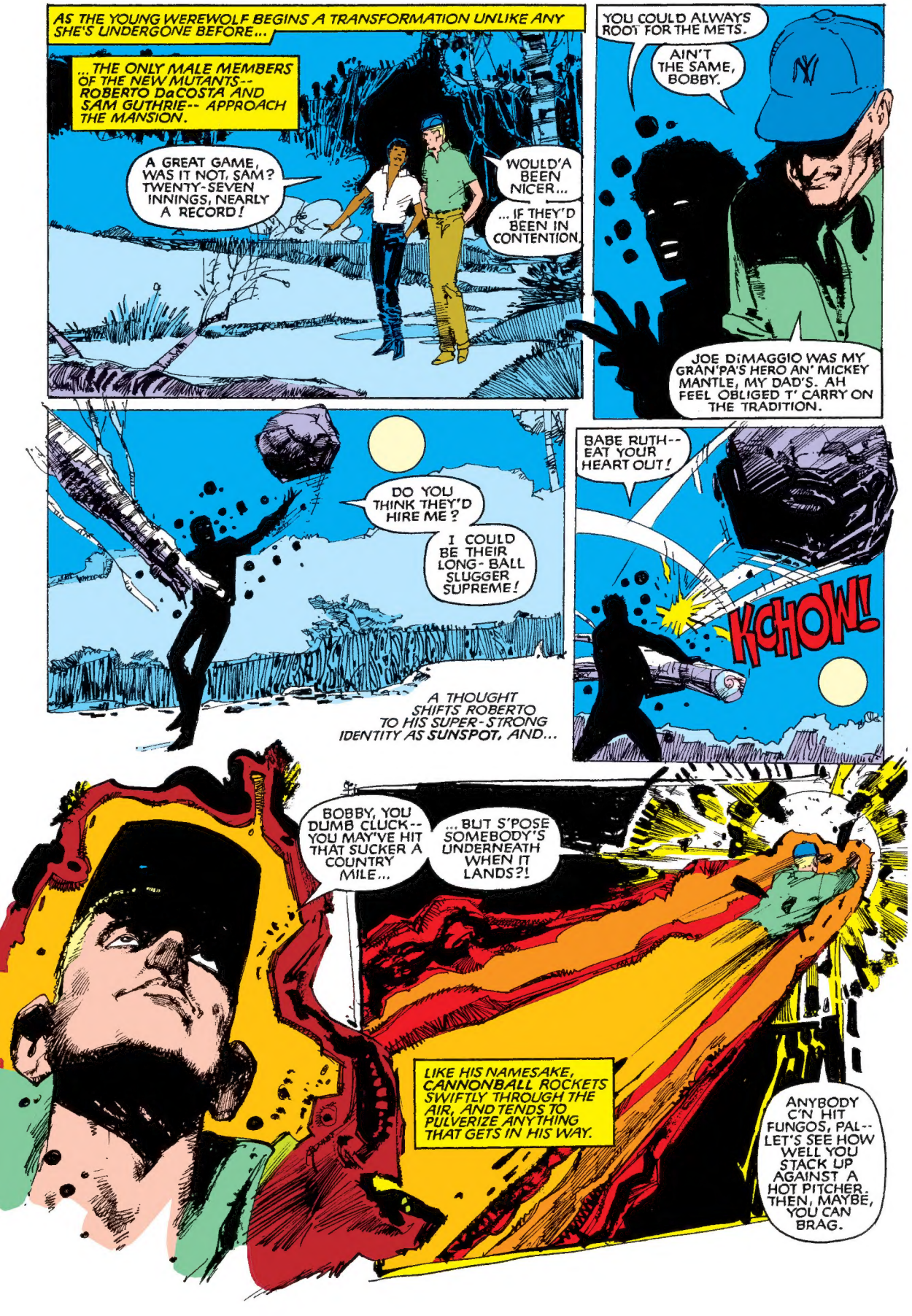

SEE, MARGO, I TOLD YOU, THE STEP'S EASY!
LOSE THE BASEBALL GLOVE, MANOL.


DIANA, WHO IS THAT PERSON MANOLI LIKES SO MUCH?
GEE, AMY, HOW CAN YOU NOT KNOW MICHAEL JACKSON?! HE'S THE ABSOLUTE LIVING END, A DREAMBOAT OF A HUNK AND THE CROWN PRINCE OF ROCK'N'ROLL, DON'T THEY HAVE ANY CULTURE AT ALL IN ROME--
--I KNEW UPSTATE WAS REMOTE, GIRL, BUT THIS IS RIDICULOUS!
I AM SORRY...
...TO SEEM SO STUPID.


MINERVA!
THE PROFESSOR WARNED ME AGAINST LOSING MY TEMPER! ANGER IS TRIGGERING MY MUTANT POWER--!
WHAT GIVES?! THE BUILDING'S SHAKING!
THIS IS AMARA'S DOING! BUT HOW CAN WE HELP-- OR STOP-- HER WI'OUT REVEALIN' WHO WE TRULY ARE?!
IS IT AN EARTHQUAKE??!!!

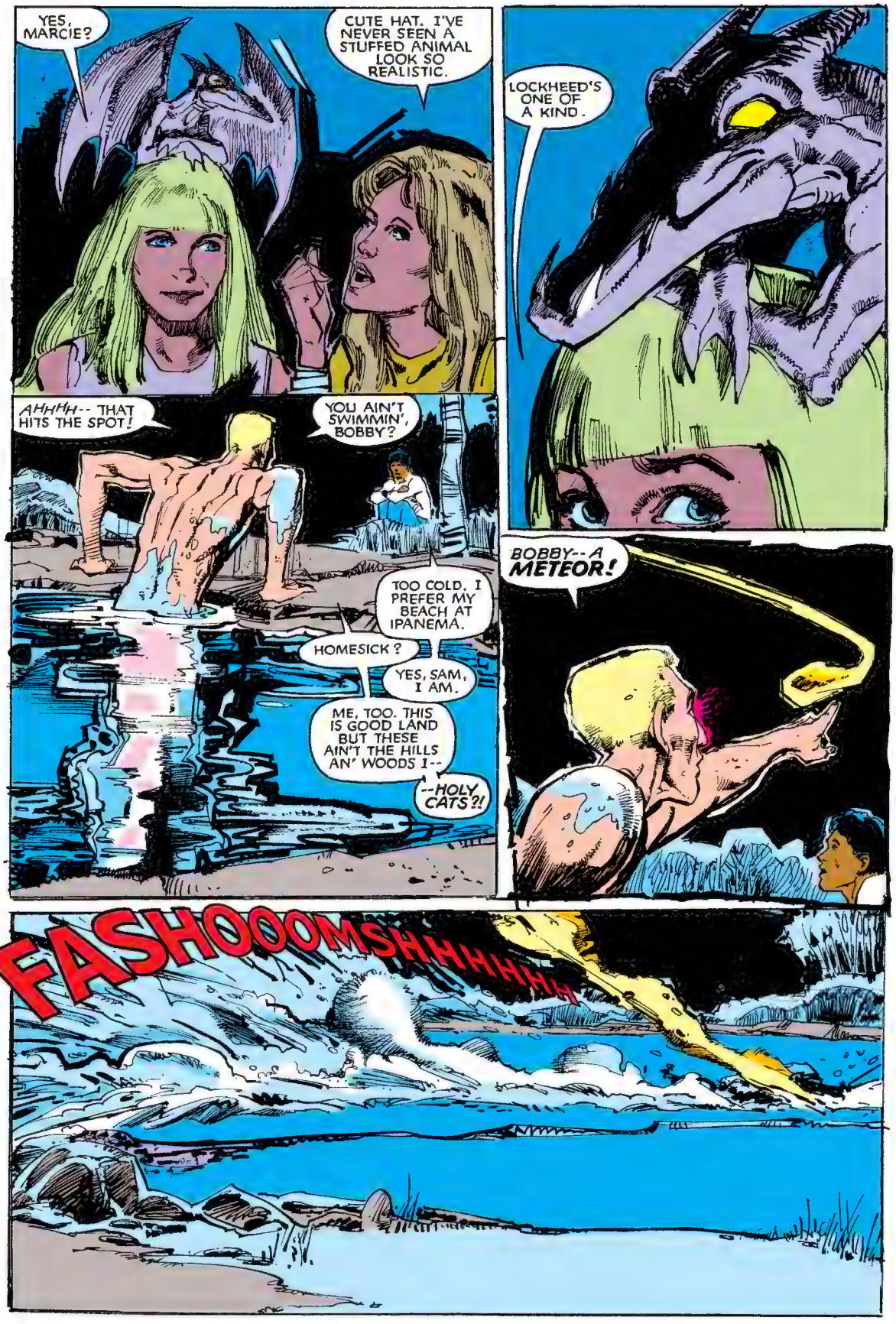

WOW! I LEFT SAN FRANCISCO TO GET AWAY FROM THOSE LITTLE BUGGERS. WAIT'LL I TELL BOBBY, THIS WAS NEAT!
THANK THE GODS IT WAS ONLY A MINOR TREMOR.
AMY, YOU LOOK SO UPSET! I FEEL LIKE SUCH A JERK--
--I NEVER SHOULD'VE SAID THOSE THINGS.
I KNOW YOU DID NOT MEAN THEM, DIANA.
I OVER-REACTED--IN PART BECAUSE I AM A STRANGER STILL IN YOUR LAND...
I LOVE YOUR EARRINGS!
THEY WERE MY MOTHER'S.
THAT'S FAKE GOLD, RIGHT?
REAL?!?
AND THE DRESS IS SILK!
GAWD, I'LL NEVER LOOK AS ELEGANT AS YOU, AMY, ON THE BEST DAY OF MY LIFE!
TRUTH HURTS, SHEILA.
WOULD IT BE SO WRONG...
...T' JOIN M' FRIENDS? THEY'RE HAVING SUCH FUN --BUT THE THINGS THEY'RE SAYIN' GO AGAINST ALL I WAS TAUGHT BY REVEREND CRAIG.
MY HEAD TELLS ME THIS ISN'T WICKED OR SINFUL, BUT IN MY HEART I STILL FEEL I'M DOING WRONG.
THEN, WE'RE AGREED?
YOU BETCHA, ILLYANA!
WHY IS EVERYONE LOOKING AT ME SO?

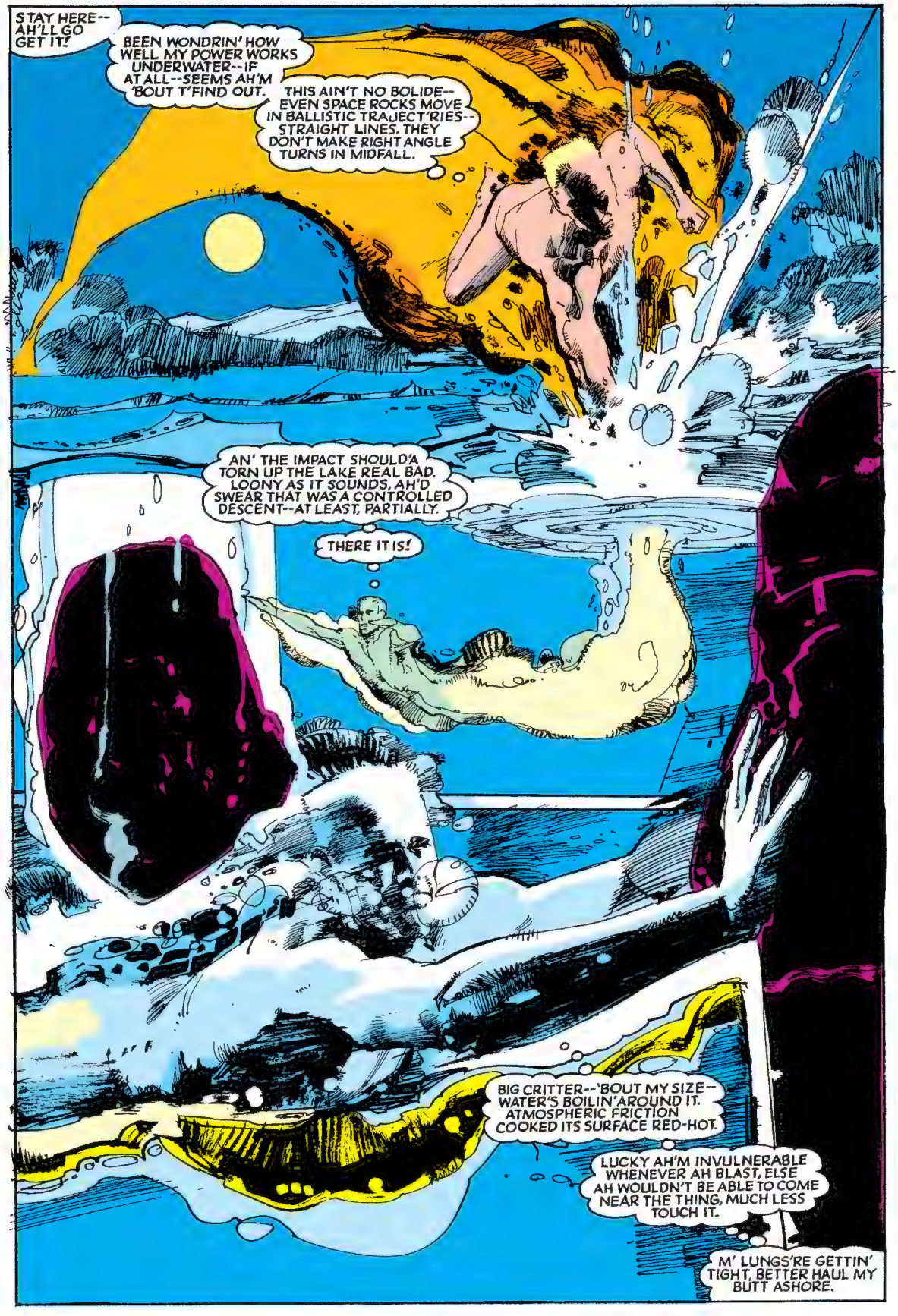

GET HER!
YYIIIII!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING, WHAT D'YOU WANT?!
GET AWAY-- LEAVE ME BE!!
DANI-- HELP!!
RAHNE'S HAND-- IT'S FUZZY-- FUR-- BY THE ABYSS!
DANI-- TROUBLE!
I KNOW, ILLYANA.
I CAN SENSE RAHNE'S THOUGHTS-- THAT ONLY HAPPENS WHEN SHE TRANSFORMS FROM HUMAN TO WOLF! I'VE GOT TO GET THROUGH TO HER BEFORE ANYONE OUTSIDE THE NEW MUTANTS NOTICES!
RAHNE! RELAX, FIRETOP, YOU'RE IN NO DANGER-- NONE OF US MEAN ANY HARM! TRUST ME, GIRL, SHAPE-SHIFT BACK TO NORMAL-- NOW!
OCH, I'M SUCH A BABY!
I'M SO SORRY, DANI. I COULDNA HELP MYSELF. I WAS SO SCARED-- ALL OF A SUDDEN IT WAS LIKE AT SCHOOL IN SCOTLAND, WHEN THE OTHER GIRLS'D PICK ON ME.
OKAY, SHORT-STUFF...
...WE'VE HAD IT WITH YOU BEING A FRUMP. LIKE IT OR NOT, RAHNE SINCLAIR...
...WE'RE GOING TO TURN YOU INTO A FAIRY PRINCESS!

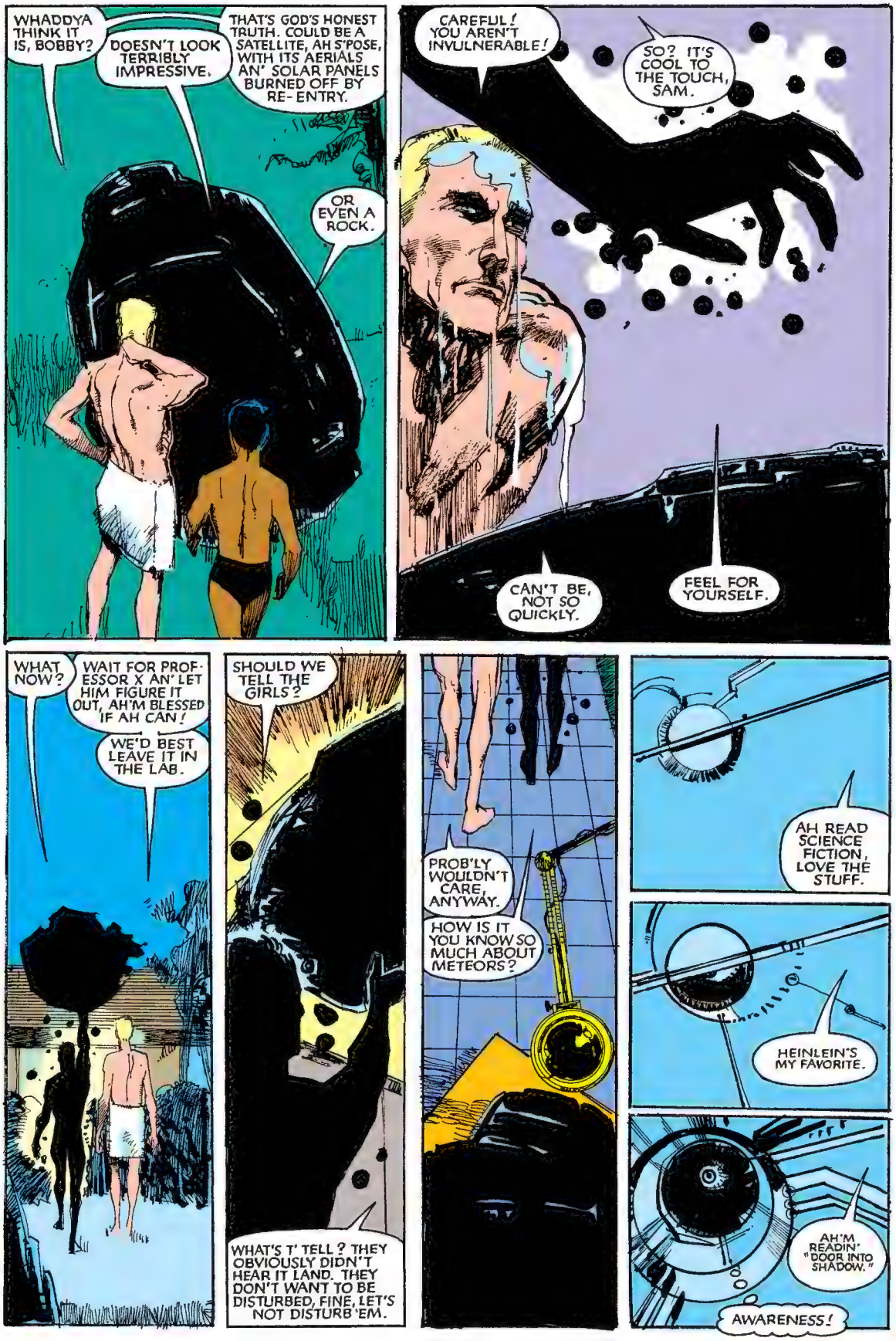

AS THE YOUNG WEREWOLF BEGINS A TRANSFORMATION UNLIKE ANY SHE'S UNDERGONE BEFORE...
...THE ONLY MALE MEMBERS OF THE NEW MUTANTS-- ROBERTO DaCOSTA AND SAM GUTHRIE-- APPROACH THE MANSION.
A GREAT GAME, WAS IT NOT, SAM? TWENTY-SEVEN INNINGS, NEARLY A RECORD!
WOULD'A BEEN NICER...
...IF THEY'D BEEN IN CONTENTION.
YOU COULD ALWAYS ROOT FOR THE METS.
AIN'T THE SAME, BOBBY.
JOE DiMAGGIO WAS MY GRAN'PA'S HERO AN' MICKEY MANTLE, MY DAD'S. AH FEEL OBLIGED T' CARRY ON THE TRADITION.
DO YOU THINK THEY'D HIRE ME?
I COULD BE THEIR LONG-BALL SLUGGER SUPREME!
A THOUGHT SHIFTS ROBERTO TO HIS SUPER-STRONG IDENTITY AS SUNSPOT, AND...
BABE RUTH-- EAT YOUR HEART OUT!
KCHOW!
BOBBY, YOU DUMB CLUCK-- YOU MAY'VE HIT THAT SUCKER A COUNTRY MILE...
...BUT S'POSE SOMEBODY'S UNDERNEATH WHEN IT LANDS?!
LIKE HIS NAMESAKE, CANNONBALL ROCKETS SWIFTLY THROUGH THE AIR, AND TENDS TO PULVERIZE ANYTHING THAT GETS IN HIS WAY.
ANYBODY C'N HIT FUNGOS, PAL-- LET'S SEE HOW WELL YOU STACK UP AGAINST A HOT PITCHER. THEN, MAYBE, YOU CAN BRAG.

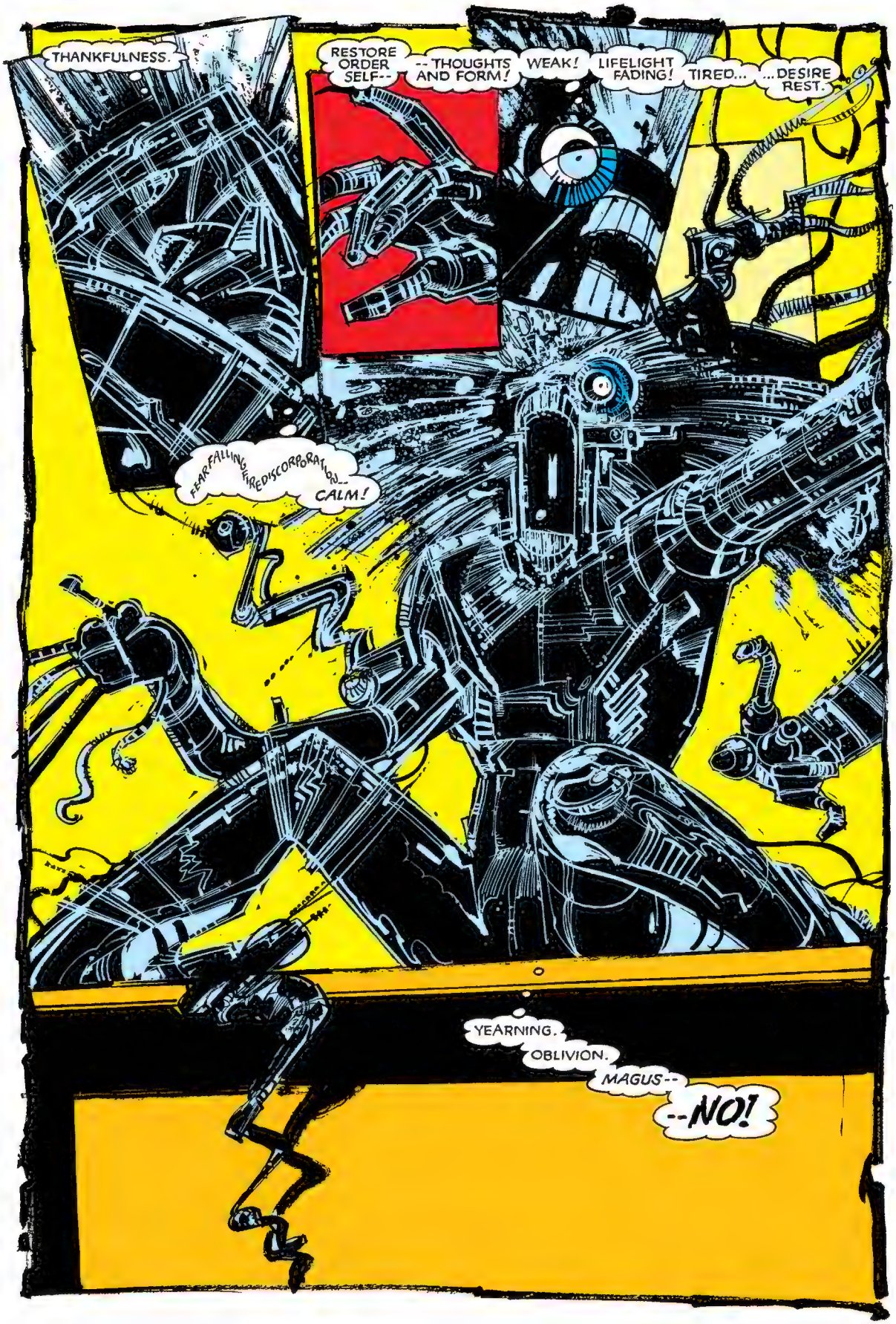
HEY, BOBBY, YOU OKAY?
YOUR MENTIONING YOUR FATHER STARTED ME THINKING ABOUT MY OWN.
WHEN I WAS YOUNGER-- BEFORE MY POWERS MANIFESTED THEMSELVES-- WE HAD SUCH FUN, HE AND I. WE WOULD GO TO SOCCER MATCHES, THE THEATRE, EVERYWHERE-- WE COULD TALK, SAM, WE WERE MORE LIKE BEST FRIENDS THAN FATHER AND SON!
NOW, THAT'S OVER. HE ISN'T THE MAN I REMEMBER-- AND LOVE-- BUT SOME CRUEL, GREEDY, RUTHLESS IMPOSTER. I WANT TO BELIEVE HE IS NOT A BAD MAN, BUT--!
MAYBE ALL HE NEEDS IS THE TIME-- AN' OPPORTUNITY-- T' FIND HIS TRUE SELF AGAIN?
MOTHER TOLD ME THAT. WE WERE NEARLY KILLED BECAUSE OF HIM, SAM, YET SHE STILL LOVES HIM--HOW CAN THAT BE?! IT MAKES NO SENSE.
HEY, LOOK! SEE THE LIGHTS IN THE ATTIC-- HEAR THE MUSIC?! THE GIRLS'RE GOIN' FULL BLAST!
LESSEE IF THEY WANT SOME COMP'NY.
TOC
TOC
MY OWN DADDY WASN'T PERFECT, EVEN IF MOST OF THE TIME I TALK AS IF HE WAS-- BUT AH'D GIVE ANYTHING FOR HIM NOT T' BE DEAD. AH MISS HIM, BOBBY, MORE'N AH C'N SAY.
AT LEAST YORE DADDY'S ALIVE. YOU TWO STILL GOT A CHANCE.
'SCUSE ME, MISS--
--WHO IS THIS GAL, SHE'S GORGEOUS--
--COULD WE PLEASE SPEAK T' DANI OR ILLYANA OR AMARA OR RAHNE?
SAM GUTHRIE--
--YOU IGNORANT, UNCARING, INSENSITIVE, DULL-WITTED CLOD--

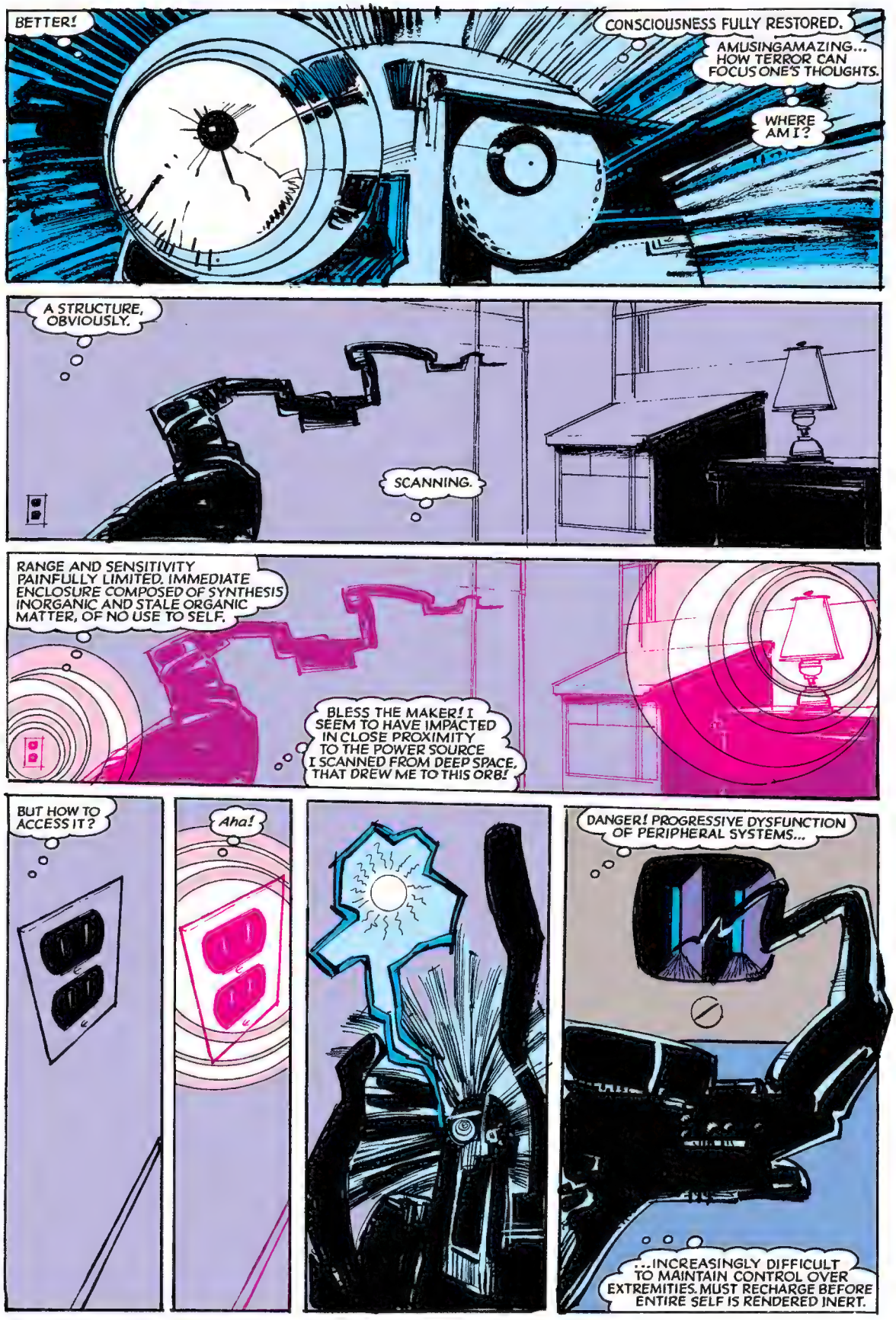
-- I HATE YOU!!
I NEVER WANT T' SEE YUIR UGLY FACE AGAIN!!!
WHOULFF!
UH, SORRY, FELLAS-- PRIVATE PARTY--NO BOYS ALLOWED.
SEE YOU IN THE MORNING.
I HOPE THAT HURT, SAM!
SERVE YOU BLOODY WELL RIGHT!
WHAT'D AH DO, WHAT'D AH SAY?!
RED CERTAINLY HAS A TEMPER.
AN' A WICKED GUT-PUNCH-- WHOO!
CUTE, THOUGH.
YEAHHP.
CAN YOU WALK, SAM?
BUDDY, AH'M STILL WORKIN' ON BREATHIN'!
EEENIE-MEENIE CHILI BEANIE, THE SPIRITS ARE ABOUT TO SPEAK!
ARE THEY FRIENDLY SPIRITS?
DON'T PUSH YOUR LUCK.
I'M SCARED.
NOT HALF SO MUCH, I BET, MARCIE, AS THOSE GHOSTS AN' DEMONS ARE OF YOU!
THA' ROTTEN SAM, HE DIDN'T EVEN RECOGNIZE ME!
NOPE -- ALL HE SAW WAS A LOVELY GIRL.
Y'REALLY THINK SO, DANI? OCH, NO--AN' I HIT HIM! WILL HE EVER FIND IT IN HIS HEART T' FORGIVE ME???
ILLYAAANA!

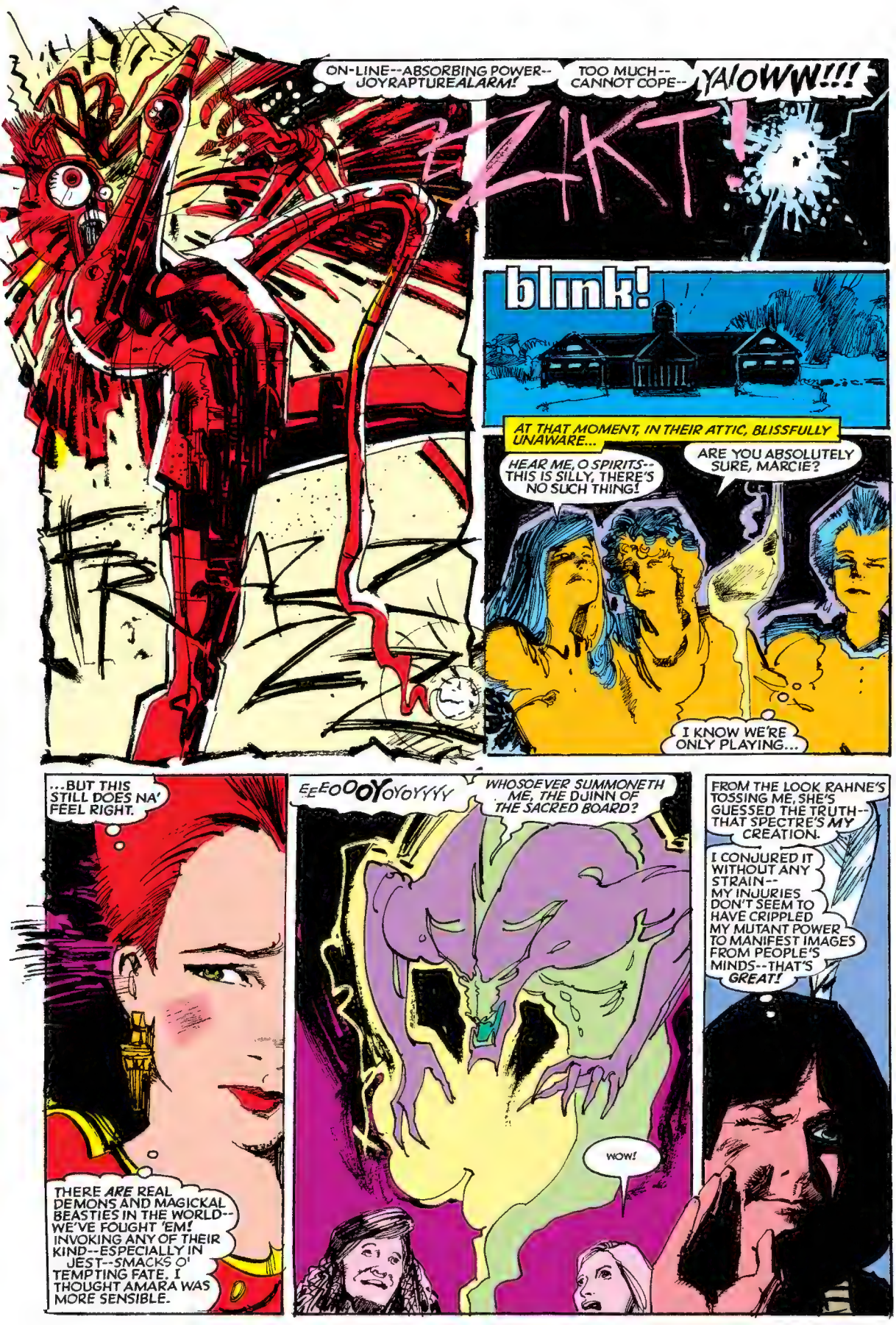

YES, MARCIE?
CUTE HAT. I'VE NEVER SEEN A STUFFED ANIMAL LOOK SO REALISTIC.
LOCKHEED'S ONE OF A KIND.
AHHHH-- THAT HITS THE SPOT!
YOU AIN'T SWIMMIN', BOBBY?
TOO COLD. I PREFER MY BEACH AT IPANEMA.
HOMESICK?
YES, SAM, I AM.
ME, TOO. THIS IS GOOD LAND BUT THESE AIN'T THE HILLS AN' WOODS I--
--HOLY CATS?!
BOBBY--A METEOR!
FASHOOOMSHHHHH

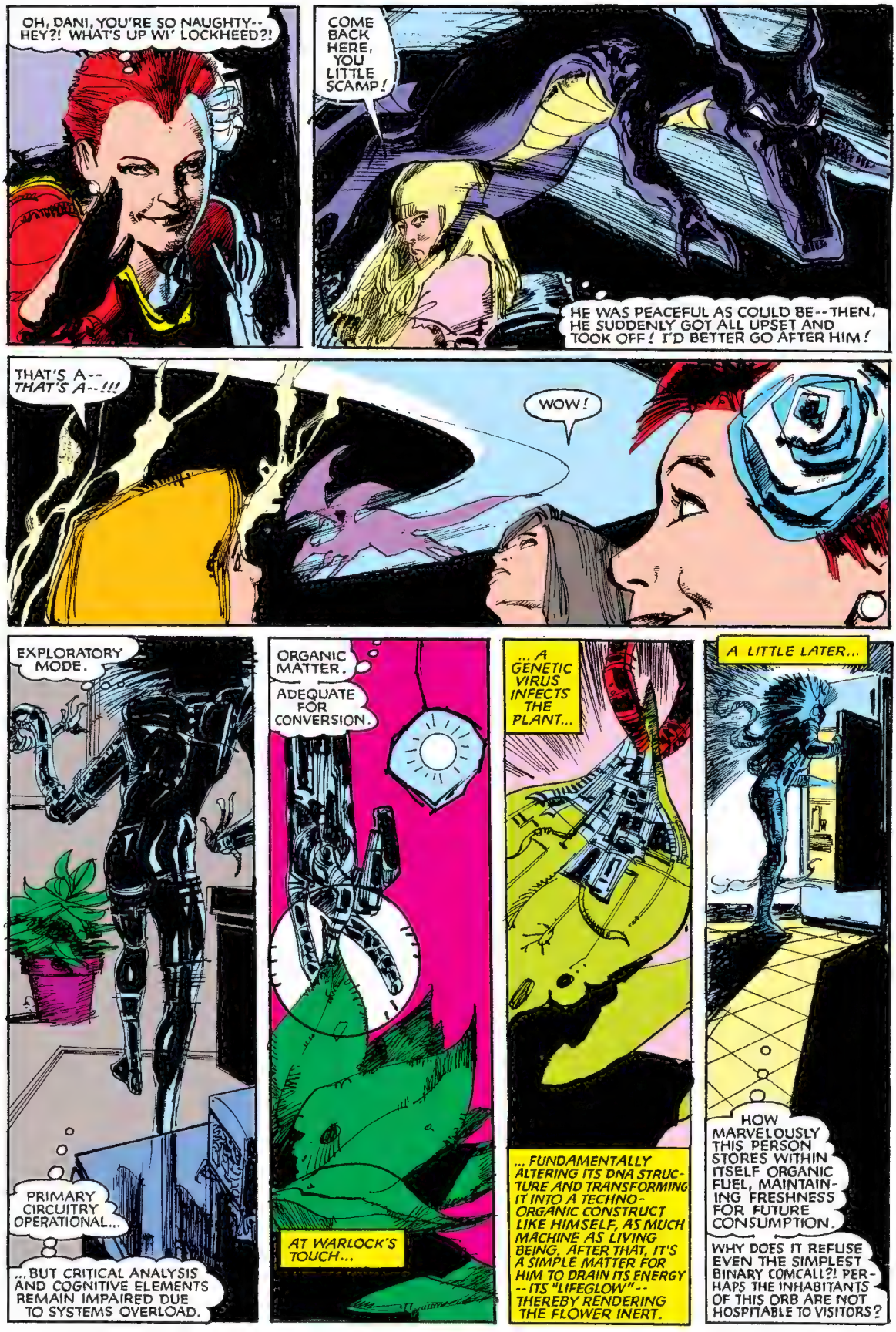

STAY HERE--AH'LL GO GET IT!
BEEN WONDRIN' HOW WELL MY POWER WORKS UNDERWATER--IF AT ALL--SEEMS AH'M 'BOUT T'FIND OUT.
THIS AIN'T NO BOLIDE--EVEN SPACE ROCKS MOVE IN BALLISTIC TRAJECT'RIES--STRAIGHT LINES. THEY DON'T MAKE RIGHT ANGLE TURNS IN MIDFALL.
AN' THE IMPACT SHOULD'A TORN UP THE LAKE REAL BAD. LOONY AS IT SOUNDS, AH'D SWEAR THAT WAS A CONTROLLED DESCENT--AT LEAST, PARTIALLY.
THERE IT IS!
BIG CRITTER--'BOUT MY SIZE--WATER'S BOILIN'AROUND IT. ATMOSPHERIC FRICTION COOKED ITS SURFACE RED-HOT.
LUCKY AH'M INVULNERABLE WHENEVER AH BLAST, ELSE AH WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO COME NEAR THE THING, MUCH LESS TOUCH IT.
M' LUNGS'RE GETTIN' TIGHT, BETTER HAUL MY BUTT ASHORE.

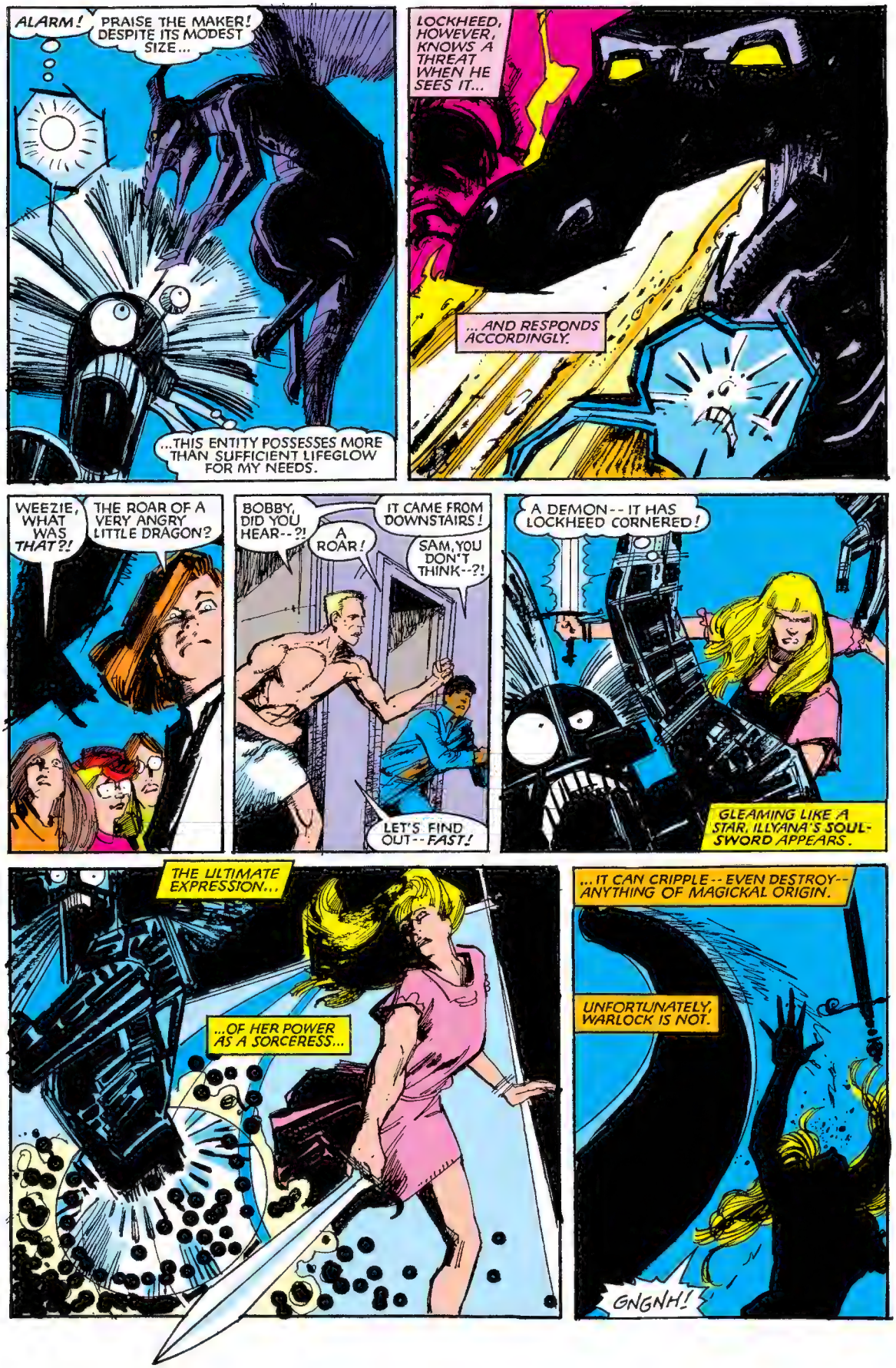

WHADDYA THINK IT IS, BOBBY?
DOESN'T LOOK TERRIBLY IMPRESSIVE.
THAT'S GOD'S HONEST TRUTH. COULD BE A SATELLITE, AH S'POSE, WITH ITS AERIALS AN' SOLAR PANELS BURNED OFF BY RE-ENTRY.
OR EVEN A ROCK.
CAREFUL! YOU AREN'T INVULNERABLE!
SO? IT'S COOL TO THE TOUCH, SAM.
CAN'T BE, NOT SO QUICKLY.
FEEL FOR YOURSELF.
WHAT NOW?
WAIT FOR PROFESSOR X AN' LET HIM FIGURE IT OUT, AH'M BLESSED IF AH CAN!
WE'D BEST LEAVE IT IN THE LAB.
SHOULD WE TELL THE GIRLS?
WHAT'S T' TELL? THEY OBVIOUSLY DIDN'T HEAR IT LAND. THEY DON'T WANT TO BE DISTURBED, FINE, LET'S NOT DISTURB 'EM.
PROB'LY WOULDN'T CARE, ANYWAY.
HOW IS IT YOU KNOW SO MUCH ABOUT METEORS?
AH READ SCIENCE FICTION, LOVE THE STUFF.
HEINLEIN'S MY FAVORITE.
AH'M READIN' "DOOR INTO SHADOW."
AWARENESS!

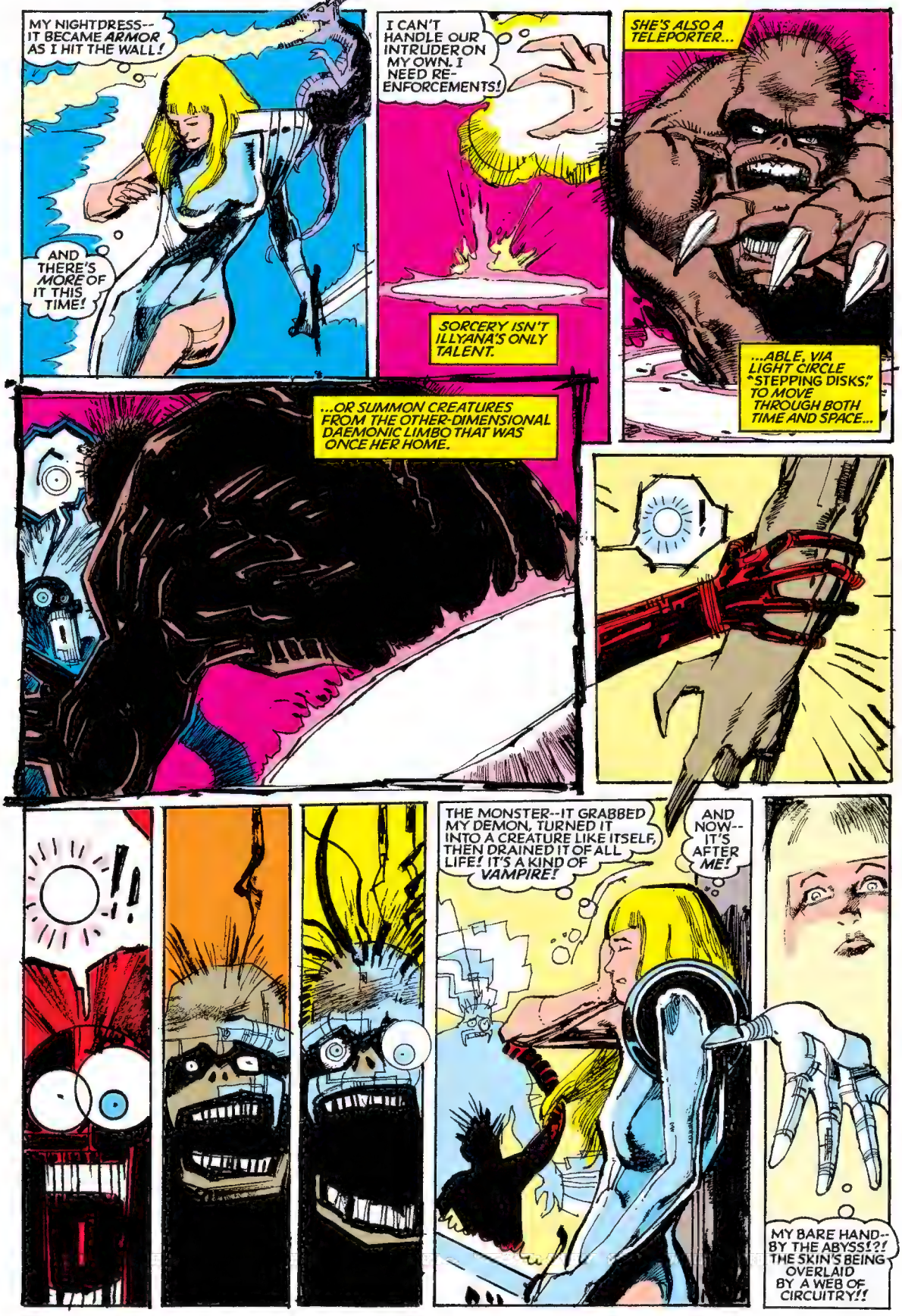

THANKFULNESS.
RESTORE ORDER SELF--
--THOUGHTS AND FORM!
WEAK!
LIFELIGHT FADING!
TIRED...
...DESIRE REST.
FEAR FALLING REDISCORPORATION...
CALM!
YEARNING.
OBLIVION.
MAGUS--
--NO!


BETTER!
CONSCIOUSNESS FULLY RESTORED.
AMUSINGAMAZING... HOW TERROR CAN FOCUS ONE'S THOUGHTS.
WHERE AM I?
A STRUCTURE, OBVIOUSLY.
SCANNING.
RANGE AND SENSITIVITY PAINFULLY LIMITED. IMMEDIATE ENCLOSURE COMPOSED OF SYNTHESIS INORGANIC AND STALE ORGANIC MATTER, OF NO USE TO SELF.
BLESS THE MAKER! I SEEM TO HAVE IMPACTED IN CLOSE PROXIMITY TO THE POWER SOURCE I SCANNED FROM DEEP SPACE, THAT DREW ME TO THIS ORB!
BUT HOW TO ACCESS IT?
Aha!
DANGER! PROGRESSIVE DYSFUNCTION OF PERIPHERAL SYSTEMS...
...INCREASINGLY DIFFICULT TO MAINTAIN CONTROL OVER EXTREMITIES. MUST RECHARGE BEFORE ENTIRE SELF IS RENDERED INERT.

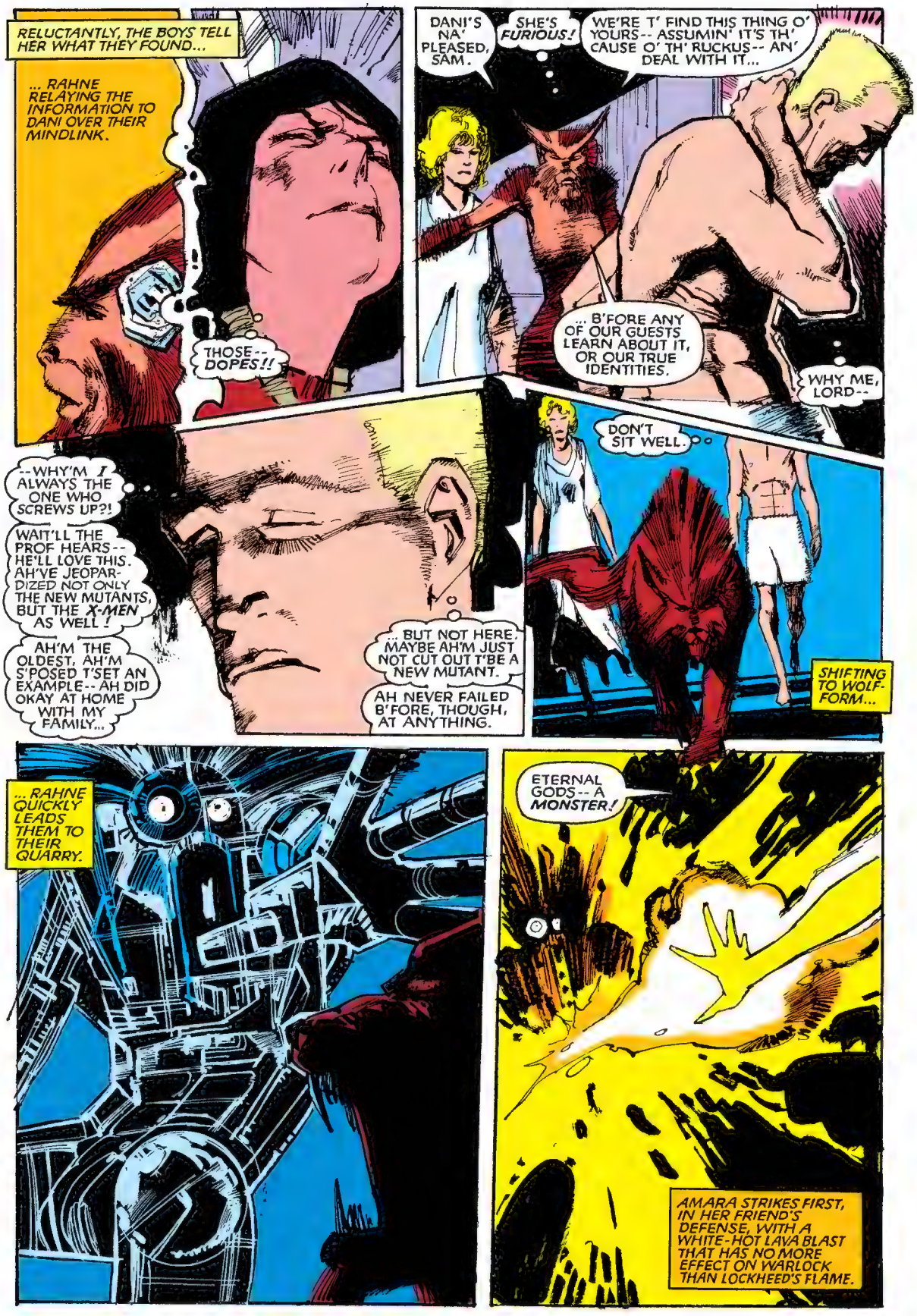

ON-LINE--ABSORBING POWER--
JOYRAPTUREALARM!
TOO MUCH--
CANNOT COPE--
YAOWW!!!
ZIKT!
blink!
AT THAT MOMENT, IN THEIR ATTIC, BLISSFULLY UNAWARE...
HEAR ME, O SPIRITS--
THIS IS SILLY, THERE'S NO SUCH THING!
ARE YOU ABSOLUTELY SURE, MARCIE?
I KNOW WE'RE ONLY PLAYING...
...BUT THIS STILL DOES NA' FEEL RIGHT.
THERE ARE REAL DEMONS AND MAGICKAL BEASTIES IN THE WORLD--
WE'VE FOUGHT 'EM!
INVOKING ANY OF THEIR KIND--ESPECIALLY IN JEST--SMACKS O' TEMPTING FATE. I THOUGHT AMARA WAS MORE SENSIBLE.
EEEOOOYOYOYYYY
WHOSOEVER SUMMONETH ME, THE DJINN OF THE SACRED BOARD?
WOW!
FROM THE LOOK RAHNE'S TOSSING ME, SHE'S GUESSED THE TRUTH--
THAT SPECTRE'S MY CREATION.
I CONJURED IT WITHOUT ANY STRAIN--
MY INJURIES DON'T SEEM TO HAVE CRIPPLED MY MUTANT POWER TO MANIFEST IMAGES FROM PEOPLE'S MINDS--THAT'S GREAT!

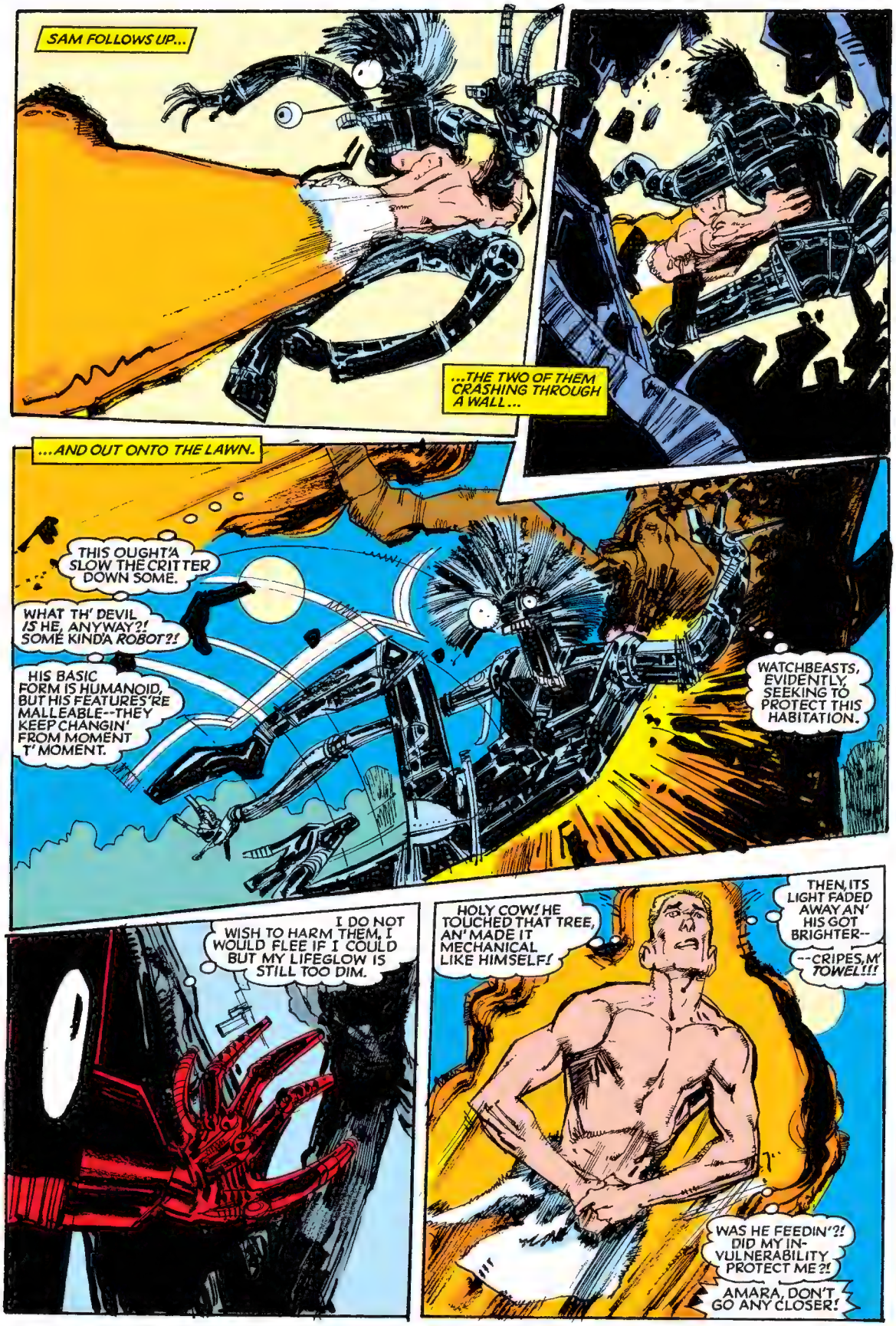

OH, DANI, YOU'RE SO NAUGHTY-- HEY?! WHAT'S UP WI' LOCKHEED?!
COME BACK HERE, YOU LITTLE SCAMP!
HE WAS PEACEFUL AS COULD BE--THEN, HE SUDDENLY GOT ALL UPSET AND TOOK OFF! I'D BETTER GO AFTER HIM!
THAT'S A-- THAT'S A--!!!
WOW!
EXPLORATORY MODE.
PRIMARY CIRCUITRY OPERATIONAL...
...BUT CRITICAL ANALYSIS AND COGNITIVE ELEMENTS REMAIN IMPAIRED DUE TO SYSTEMS OVERLOAD.
ORGANIC MATTER.
ADEQUATE FOR CONVERSION.
AT WARLOCK'S TOUCH...
... A GENETIC VIRUS INFECTS THE PLANT...
... FUNDAMENTALLY ALTERING ITS DNA STRUCTURE AND TRANSFORMING IT INTO A TECHNO-ORGANIC CONSTRUCT LIKE HIMSELF, AS MUCH MACHINE AS LIVING BEING. AFTER THAT, IT'S A SIMPLE MATTER FOR HIM TO DRAIN ITS ENERGY -- ITS "LIFEGLOW" -- THEREBY RENDERING THE FLOWER INERT.
A LITTLE LATER...
HOW MARVELOUSLY THIS PERSON STORES WITHIN ITSELF ORGANIC FUEL, MAINTAINING FRESHNESS FOR FUTURE CONSUMPTION.
WHY DOES IT REFUSE EVEN THE SIMPLEST BINARY COMCALL?! PERHAPS THE INHABITANTS OF THIS ORB ARE NOT HOSPITABLE TO VISITORS?

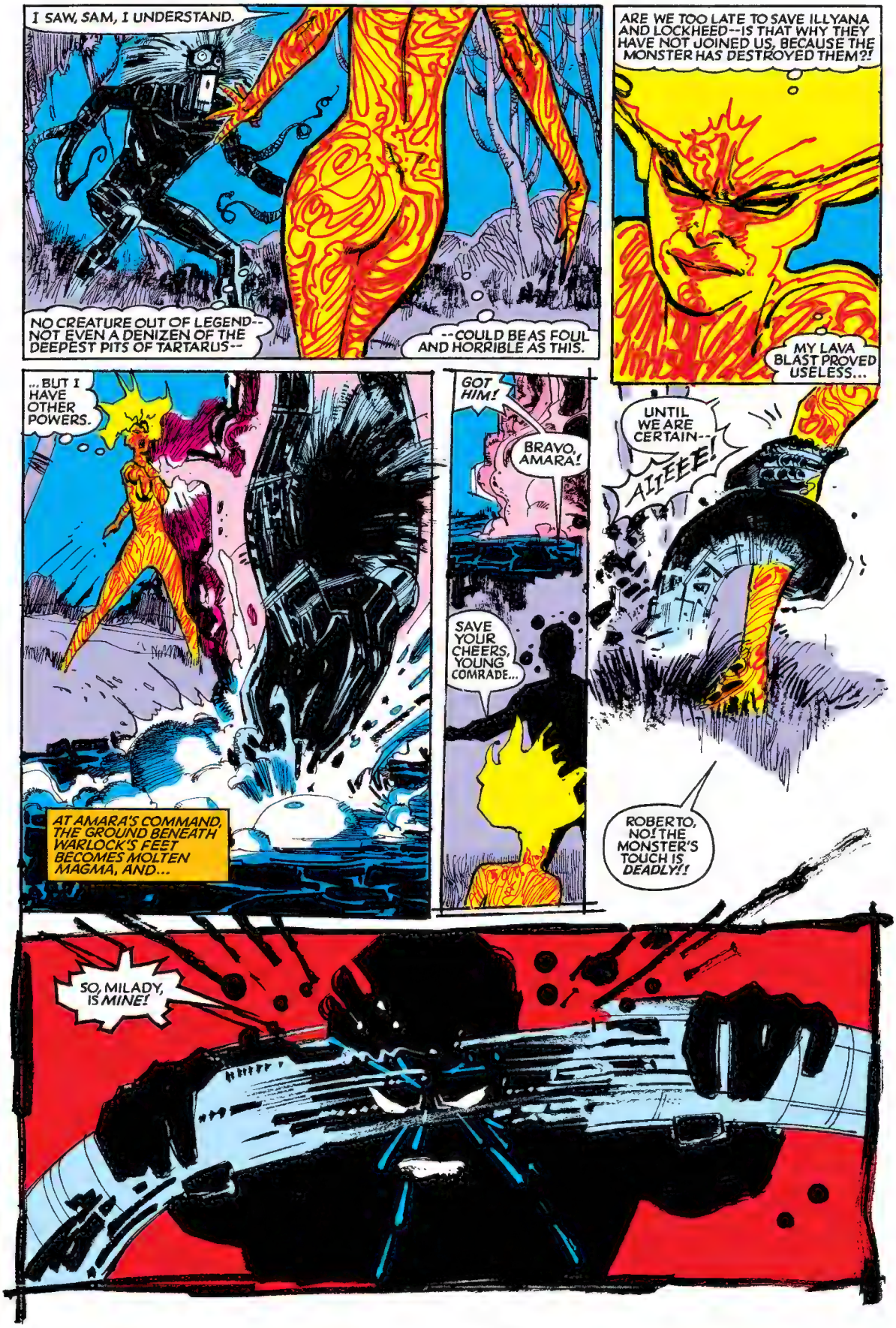

ALARM!
PRAISE THE MAKER! DESPITE ITS MODEST SIZE...
...THIS ENTITY POSSESSES MORE THAN SUFFICIENT LIFEGLOW FOR MY NEEDS.
LOCKHEED, HOWEVER, KNOWS A THREAT WHEN HE SEES IT...
... AND RESPONDS ACCORDINGLY.
WEEZIE, WHAT WAS THAT?!
THE ROAR OF A VERY ANGRY LITTLE DRAGON?
BOBBY, DID YOU HEAR--?!
A ROAR!
IT CAME FROM DOWNSTAIRS!
SAM, YOU DON'T THINK--?!
LET'S FIND OUT--FAST!
A DEMON-- IT HAS LOCKHEED CORNERED!
GLEAMING LIKE A STAR, ILLYANA'S SOUL-SWORD APPEARS.
THE ULTIMATE EXPRESSION...
...OF HER POWER AS A SORCERESS...
...IT CAN CRIPPLE--EVEN DESTROY--ANYTHING OF MAGICKAL ORIGIN.
UNFORTUNATELY, WARLOCK IS NOT.
GNGNH!

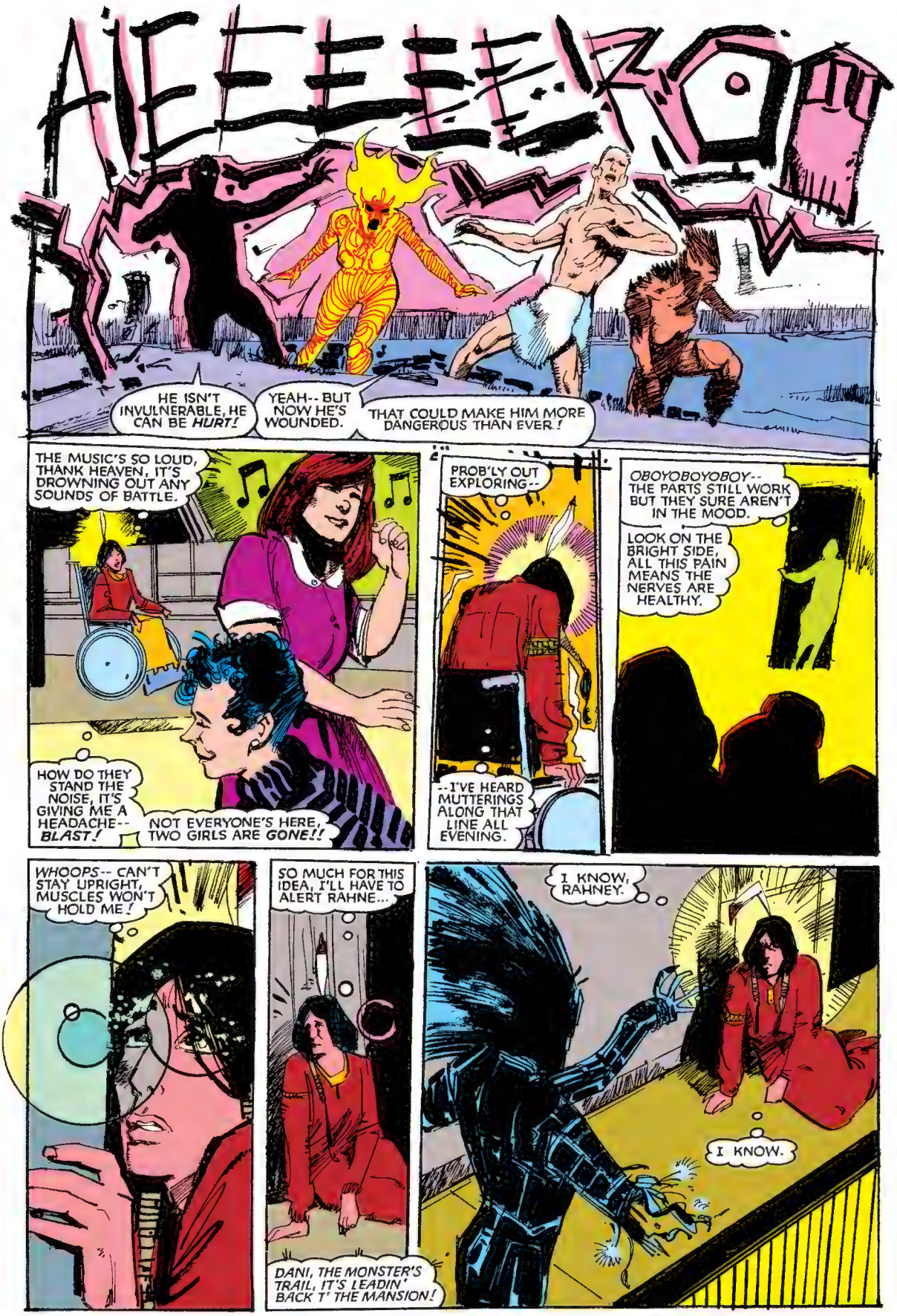

MY NIGHTDRESS--IT BECAME ARMOR AS I HIT THE WALL!
AND THERE'S MORE OF IT THIS TIME!
I CAN'T HANDLE OUR INTRUDER ON MY OWN. I NEED RE-ENFORCEMENTS!
SORCERY ISN'T ILLYANA'S ONLY TALENT.
SHE'S ALSO A TELEPORTER...
...ABLE, VIA LIGHT CIRCLE "STEPPING DISKS," TO MOVE THROUGH BOTH TIME AND SPACE...
...OR SUMMON CREATURES FROM THE OTHER-DIMENSIONAL DAEMONIC LIMBO THAT WAS ONCE HER HOME.
!!
THE MONSTER--IT GRABBED MY DEMON, TURNED IT INTO A CREATURE LIKE ITSELF, THEN DRAINED IT OF ALL LIFE! IT'S A KIND OF VAMPIRE!
AND NOW--IT'S AFTER ME!
MY BARE HAND--BY THE ABYSS!?! THE SKIN'S BEING OVERLAID BY A WEB OF CIRCUITRY!!

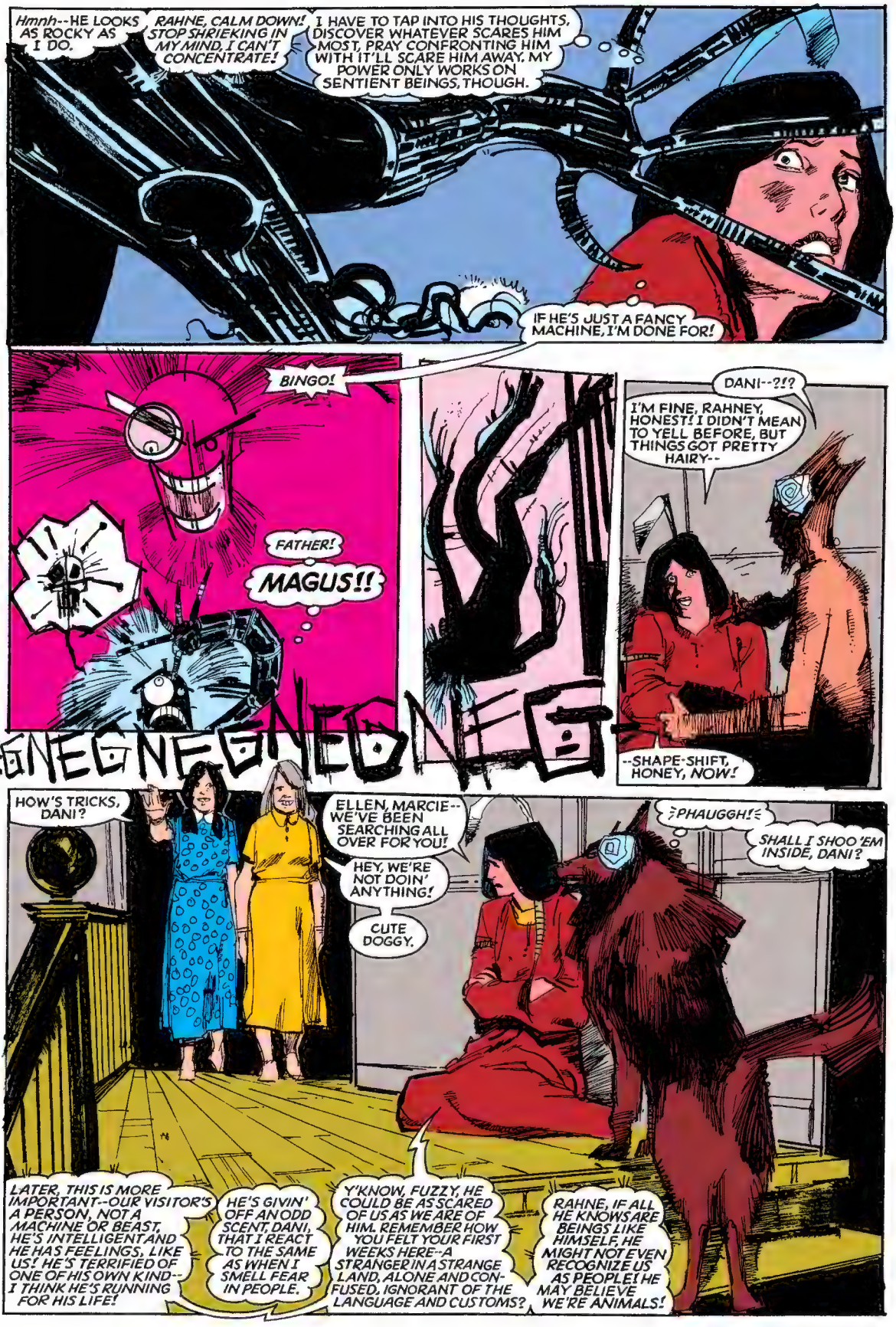
LOCKHEED, STAY BACK-- OR IT'LL GET YOU, TOO!
IF ANYTHING HAPPENS TO THAT DRAGON...
KITTY'LL NEVER FORGIVE ME.
C'MERE, YOU!
I WON'T LET HER DOWN, SHE'S MY BEST FRIEND. I WONDER IF I'M HERS?
WE'RE CORNERED!
NO CHANCE TO WARN THE OTHERS, NO WAY OUT--
BUT ONE!
AWFUL QUIET DOWNSTAIRS, BOBBY.
TOO QUIET, MY FRIEND?
NO LIGHTS, EITHER, THAT AIN'T A GOOD SIGN. IF THERE IS SOMETHIN' LOOSE, AH DON'T WANT T' BLUNDER INTO IT IN THE DARK.
NEED SOME HELP, BOYS?
RAHNE!
YOU'RE DARN STRAIGHT WE DO! YOUR WOLF-SENSES'RE JUST WHAT THE DOCTOR ORDERED.
WHAT'M I LOOKING FOR, THEN--ASIDE FROM ILLYANA AN' LOCKHEED?


RELUCTANTLY, THE BOYS TELL HER WHAT THEY FOUND...
... RAHNE RELAYING THE INFORMATION TO DANI OVER THEIR MINDLINK.
THOSE-- DOPES!!
DANI'S NA' PLEASED, SAM.
SHE'S FURIOUS!
WE'RE T' FIND THIS THING O' YOURS-- ASSUMIN' IT'S TH' CAUSE O' TH' RUCKUS-- AN' DEAL WITH IT...
... B'FORE ANY OF OUR GUESTS LEARN ABOUT IT, OR OUR TRUE IDENTITIES.
WHY ME, LORD--
DON'T SIT WELL.
SHIFTING TO WOLF-FORM...
--WHY'M I ALWAYS THE ONE WHO SCREWS UP?!
WAIT'LL THE PROF HEARS-- HE'LL LOVE THIS. AH'VE JEOPAR-DIZED NOT ONLY THE NEW MUTANTS, BUT THE X-MEN AS WELL!
AH'M THE OLDEST, AH'M S'POSED T'SET AN EXAMPLE-- AH DID OKAY AT HOME WITH MY FAMILY...
... BUT NOT HERE. MAYBE AH'M JUST NOT CUT OUT T'BE A NEW MUTANT.
AH NEVER FAILED B'FORE, THOUGH, AT ANYTHING.
... RAHNE QUICKLY LEADS THEM TO THEIR QUARRY.
ETERNAL GODS-- A MONSTER!
AMARA STRIKES FIRST, IN HER FRIEND'S DEFENSE, WITH A WHITE-HOT LAVA BLAST THAT HAS NO MORE EFFECT ON WARLOCK THAN LOCKHEED'S FLAME.

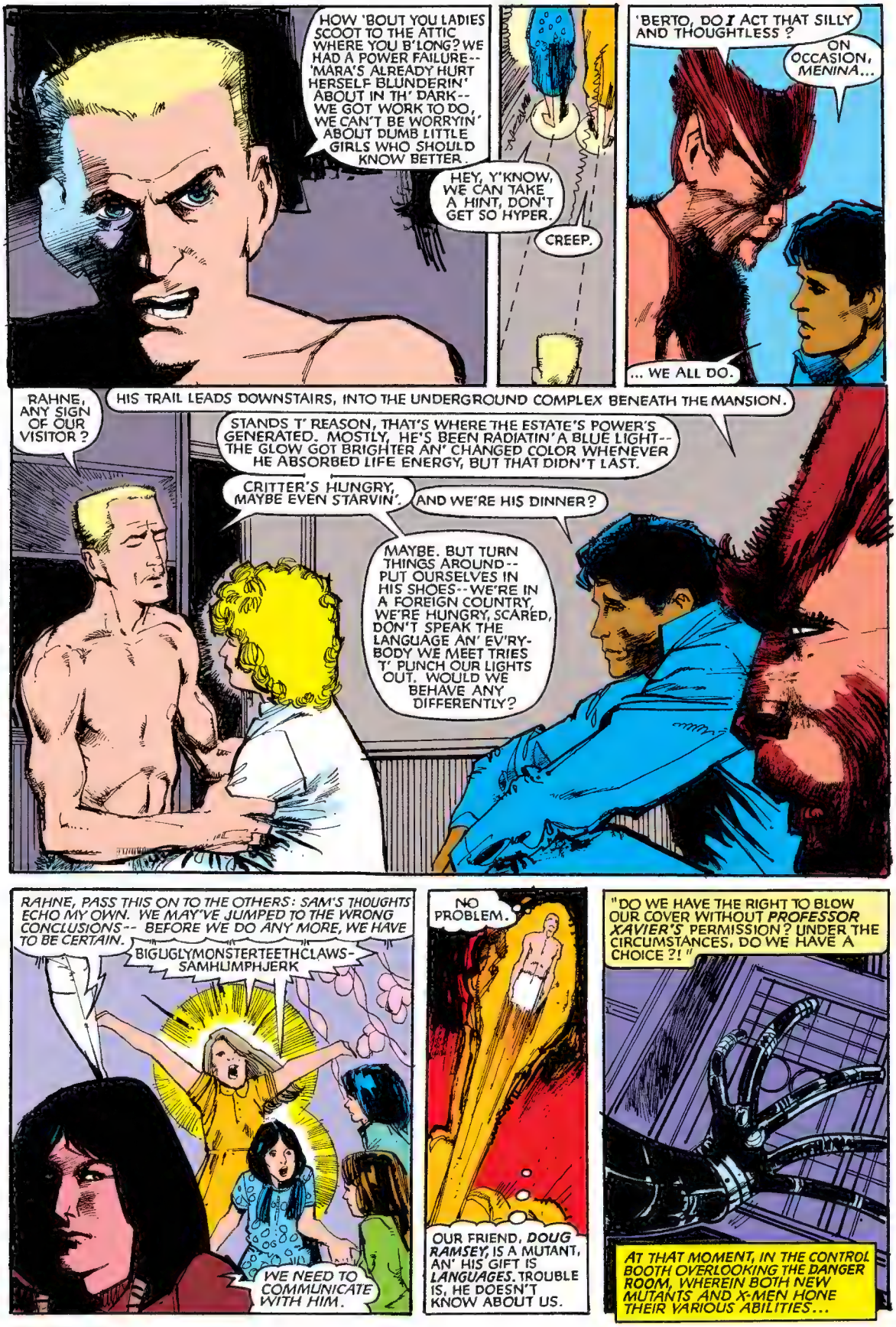

SAM FOLLOWS UP...
...THE TWO OF THEM CRASHING THROUGH A WALL...
...AND OUT ONTO THE LAWN.
THIS OUGHT'A SLOW THE CRITTER DOWN SOME.
WHAT TH' DEVIL IS HE, ANYWAY?! SOME KINDA ROBOT?!
HIS BASIC FORM IS HUMANOID, BUT HIS FEATURES'RE MALLEABLE--THEY KEEP CHANGIN' FROM MOMENT T' MOMENT.
WATCHBEASTS, EVIDENTLY, SEEKING TO PROTECT THIS HABITATION.
I DO NOT WISH TO HARM THEM. I WOULD FLEE IF I COULD BUT MY LIFEGLOW IS STILL TOO DIM.
HOLY COW! HE TOUCHED THAT TREE, AN' MADE IT MECHANICAL LIKE HIMSELF!
THEN, ITS LIGHT FADED AWAY AN' HIS GOT BRIGHTER--
--CRIPES, M' TOWEL!!!
WAS HE FEEDIN'?! DID MY IN-VULNERABILITY PROTECT ME?!
AMARA, DON'T GO ANY CLOSER!

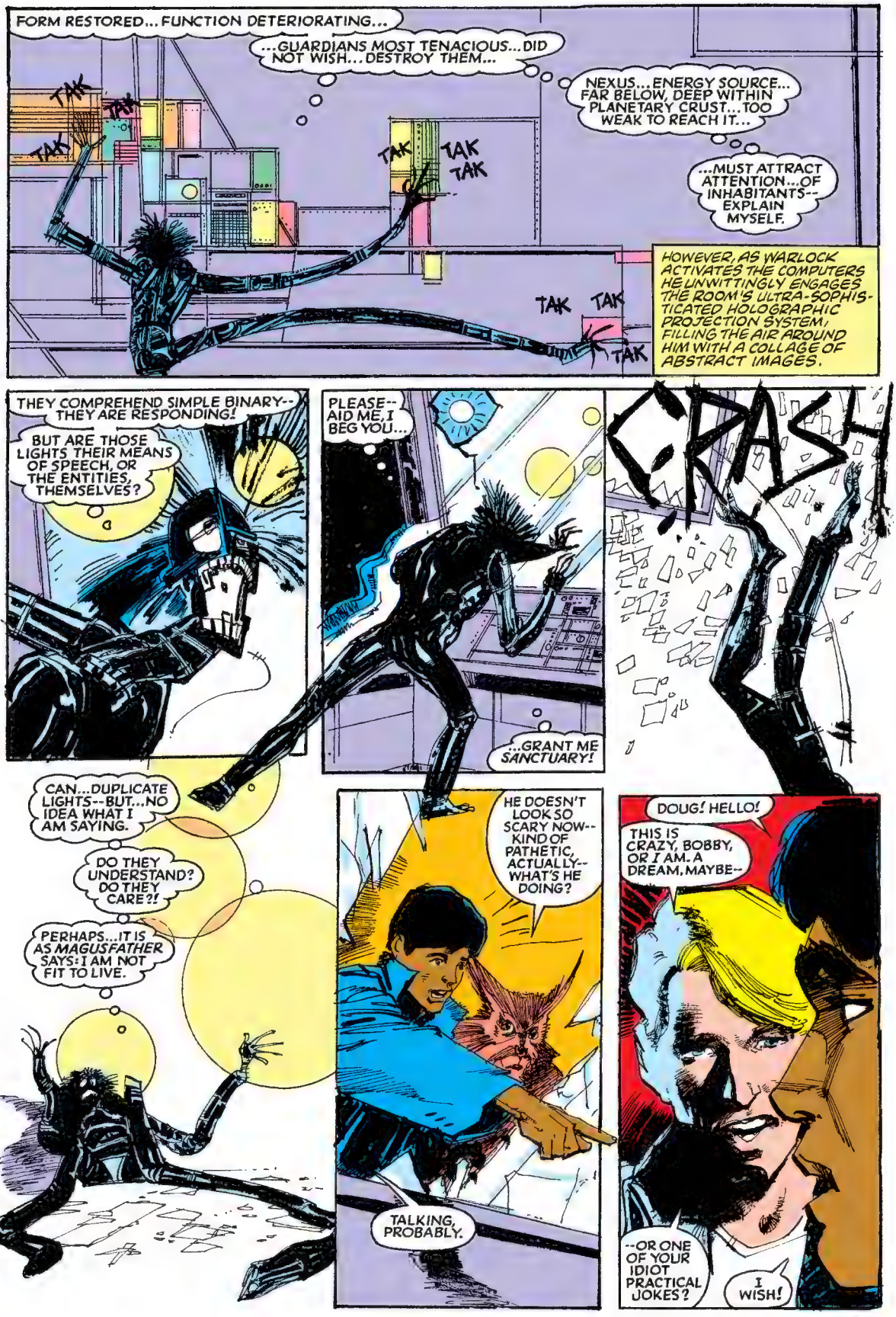

I SAW, SAM, I UNDERSTAND.
NO CREATURE OUT OF LEGEND--NOT EVEN A DENIZEN OF THE DEEPEST PITS OF TARTARUS--
--COULD BE AS FOUL AND HORRIBLE AS THIS.
ARE WE TOO LATE TO SAVE ILLYANA AND LOCKHEED--IS THAT WHY THEY HAVE NOT JOINED US, BECAUSE THE MONSTER HAS DESTROYED THEM?!
MY LAVA BLAST PROVED USELESS...
...BUT I HAVE OTHER POWERS.
AT AMARA'S COMMAND, THE GROUND BENEATH WARLOCK'S FEET BECOMES MOLTEN MAGMA, AND...
GOT HIM!
BRAVO, AMARA!
SAVE YOUR CHEERS, YOUNG COMRADE...
UNTIL WE ARE CERTAIN--
AIIEEE!
ROBERTO, NO! THE MONSTER'S TOUCH IS DEADLY!!
SO, MILADY, IS MINE!


AIEEEEE..RO
HE ISN'T INVULNERABLE, HE CAN BE HURT!
YEAH-- BUT NOW HE'S WOUNDED.
THAT COULD MAKE HIM MORE DANGEROUS THAN EVER!
THE MUSIC'S SO LOUD, THANK HEAVEN, IT'S DROWNING OUT ANY SOUNDS OF BATTLE.
HOW DO THEY STAND THE NOISE, IT'S GIVING ME A HEADACHE-- BLAST!
NOT EVERYONE'S HERE, TWO GIRLS ARE GONE!!
PROB'LY OUT EXPLORING--
--I'VE HEARD MUTTERINGS ALONG THAT LINE ALL EVENING.
OBOYOBOYOBOY-- THE PARTS STILL WORK BUT THEY SURE AREN'T IN THE MOOD.
LOOK ON THE BRIGHT SIDE, ALL THIS PAIN MEANS THE NERVES ARE HEALTHY.
WHOOPS-- CAN'T STAY UPRIGHT, MUSCLES WON'T HOLD ME!
SO MUCH FOR THIS IDEA, I'LL HAVE TO ALERT RAHNE...
DANI, THE MONSTER'S TRAIL, IT'S LEADIN' BACK T' THE MANSION!
I KNOW, RAHNEY.
I KNOW.

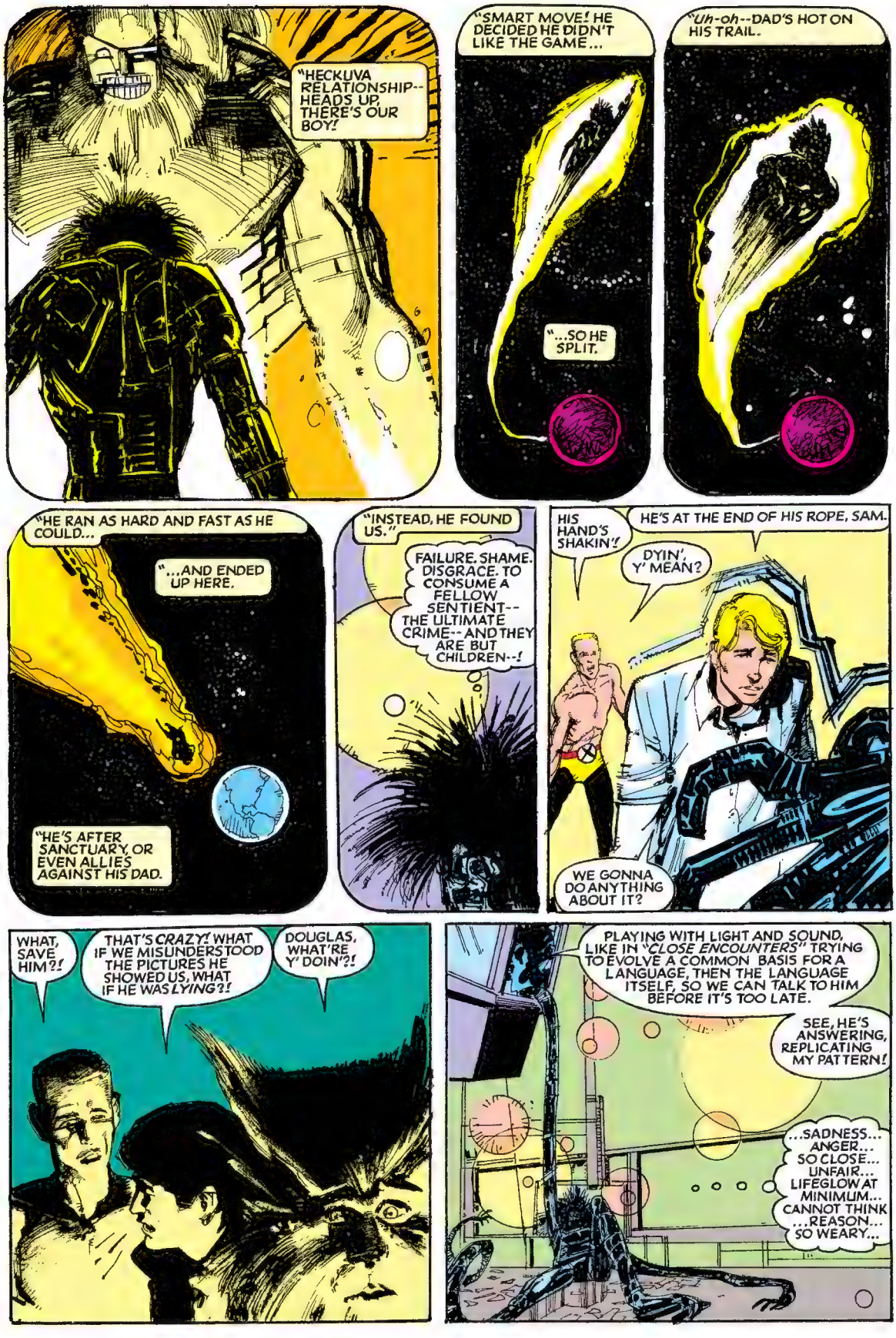

Hmnh--HE LOOKS AS ROCKY AS I DO.
RAHNE, CALM DOWN! STOP SHRIEKING IN MY MIND, I CAN'T CONCENTRATE!
I HAVE TO TAP INTO HIS THOUGHTS, DISCOVER WHATEVER SCARES HIM MOST, PRAY CONFRONTING HIM WITH IT'LL SCARE HIM AWAY. MY POWER ONLY WORKS ON SENTIENT BEINGS, THOUGH.
IF HE'S JUST A FANCY MACHINE, I'M DONE FOR!
BINGO!
FATHER!
MAGUS!!
DANI--?!?
I'M FINE, RAHNEY, HONEST! I DIDN'T MEAN TO YELL BEFORE, BUT THINGS GOT PRETTY HAIRY--
--SHAPE-SHIFT, HONEY, NOW!
HOW'S TRICKS, DANI?
ELLEN, MARCIE--WE'VE BEEN SEARCHING ALL OVER FOR YOU!
HEY, WE'RE NOT DOIN' ANYTHING!
CUTE DOGGY.
PHAUGGH!
SHALL I SHOO 'EM INSIDE, DANI?
LATER, THIS IS MORE IMPORTANT--OUR VISITOR'S A PERSON, NOT A MACHINE OR BEAST, HE'S INTELLIGENT AND HE HAS FEELINGS, LIKE US! HE'S TERRIFIED OF ONE OF HIS OWN KIND--I THINK HE'S RUNNING FOR HIS LIFE!
HE'S GIVIN' OFF AN ODD SCENT, DANI, THAT I REACT TO THE SAME AS WHEN I SMELL FEAR IN PEOPLE.
Y'KNOW, FUZZY, HE COULD BE AS SCARED OF US AS WE ARE OF HIM. REMEMBER HOW YOU FELT YOUR FIRST WEEKS HERE--A STRANGER IN A STRANGE LAND, ALONE AND CONFUSED, IGNORANT OF THE LANGUAGE AND CUSTOMS?
RAHNE, IF ALL HE KNOWS ARE BEINGS LIKE HIMSELF, HE MIGHT NOT EVEN RECOGNIZE US AS PEOPLE! HE MAY BELIEVE WE'RE ANIMALS!

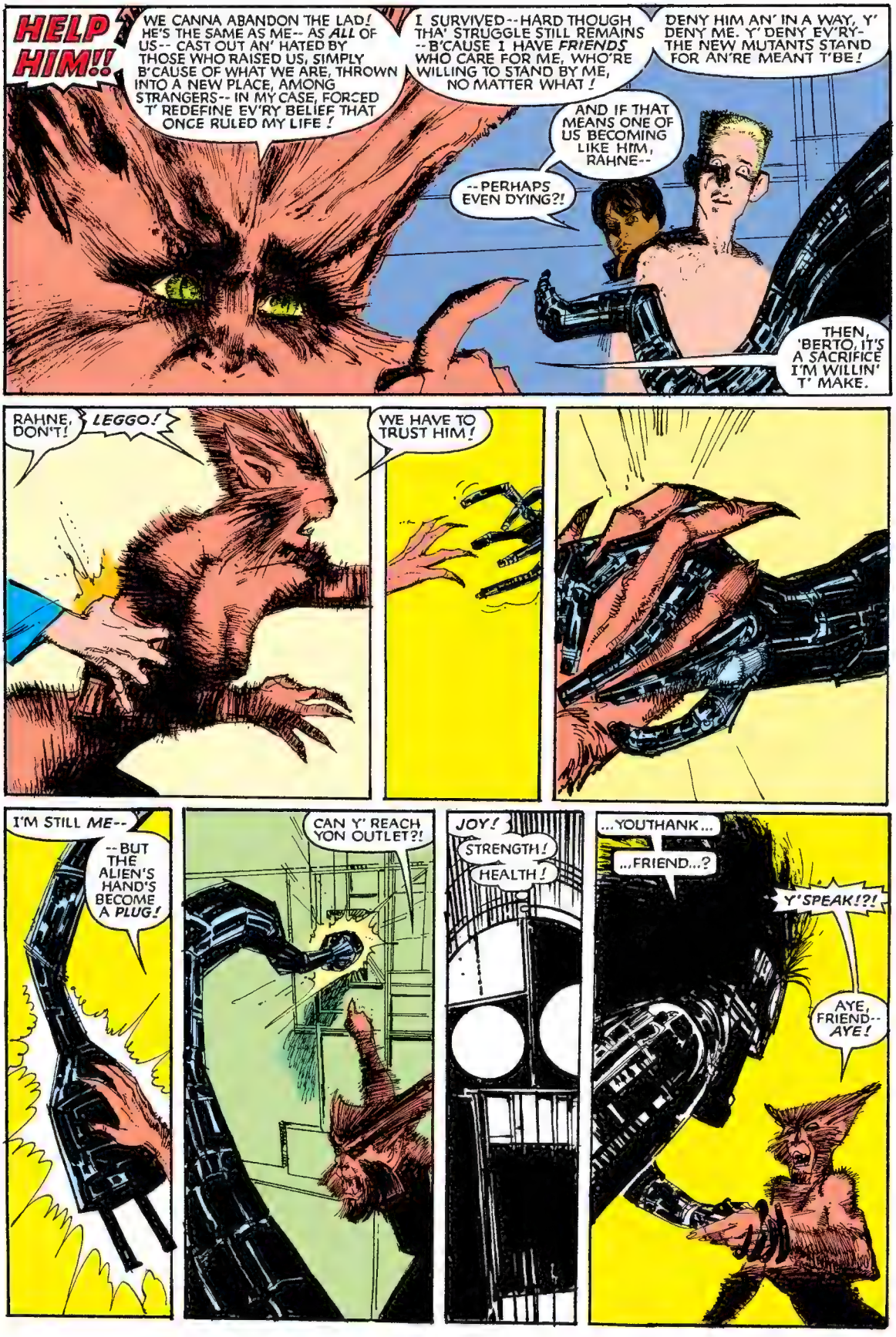
WHERE'S THE DOG GOING?
ACTUALLY, ELLEN, SHE'S A WOLF.
HEY, LIKE IN "ELFQUEST?" THAT'S RAD, DANI! AN' YOU'VE GOT IT TRAINED AN' EVERYTHING!
TELL THE OTHERS WHAT I FIGURED OUT, RAHNE--THEY'RE NOT TO HURT OUR VISITOR UNLESS IT'S LIFE-OR-DEATH, THAT'S AN ORDER!
YOU GIRLS HEADING BACK TO THE PARTY?
Oh, SURE--HEY, LOOK! IT'S A GUY, FLYING!
WHO IS IT? CAN YOU TELL, MARCIE?!
HE WENT BY TOO FAST--BUT, ELLEN, HE WASN'T WEARING ANY CLOTHES!
REAL CUTE TUSH--LET'S SEE WHERE HE WENT.
GEE, DANI SOUNDED AWFULLY MAD.
YOU'D THINK SHE HAD SOMETHING TO HIDE.
WHERE ARE WE, MARCIE? I'M LOST.
ON THE MAIN FLOOR--ELLENNN!!
EEEKKK!!
WHO'S SCREAMIN'--WHAT'S'A MATTER--WHO THE DEVIL'RE YOU?!!
WHAT THE HECK IS THAT?!?
M-M-M-M-MONSTER!!
IT'S A STATUE, DUMMY.
TH' INTRUDER'S DOIN', AH'LL BET.


HOW 'BOUT YOU LADIES SCOOT TO THE ATTIC WHERE YOU B'LONG? WE HAD A POWER FAILURE-- 'MARA'S ALREADY HURT HERSELF BLUNDERIN' ABOUT IN TH' DARK-- WE GOT WORK TO DO, WE CAN'T BE WORRYIN' ABOUT DUMB LITTLE GIRLS WHO SHOULD KNOW BETTER.
HEY, Y'KNOW, WE CAN TAKE A HINT, DON'T GET SO HYPER.
CREEP.
'BERTO, DO I ACT THAT SILLY AND THOUGHTLESS ?
ON OCCASION, MENINA...
... WE ALL DO.
RAHNE, ANY SIGN OF OUR VISITOR ?
HIS TRAIL LEADS DOWNSTAIRS, INTO THE UNDERGROUND COMPLEX BENEATH THE MANSION.
STANDS T' REASON, THAT'S WHERE THE ESTATE'S POWER'S GENERATED. MOSTLY, HE'S BEEN RADIATIN' A BLUE LIGHT-- THE GLOW GOT BRIGHTER AN' CHANGED COLOR WHENEVER HE ABSORBED LIFE ENERGY, BUT THAT DIDN'T LAST.
CRITTER'S HUNGRY, MAYBE EVEN STARVIN'.
AND WE'RE HIS DINNER?
MAYBE. BUT TURN THINGS AROUND-- PUT OURSELVES IN HIS SHOES--WE'RE IN A FOREIGN COUNTRY, WE'RE HUNGRY, SCARED, DON'T SPEAK THE LANGUAGE AN' EV'RY-BODY WE MEET TRIES T' PUNCH OUR LIGHTS OUT. WOULD WE BEHAVE ANY DIFFERENTLY?
RAHNE, PASS THIS ON TO THE OTHERS: SAM'S THOUGHTS ECHO MY OWN. WE MAY'VE JUMPED TO THE WRONG CONCLUSIONS-- BEFORE WE DO ANY MORE, WE HAVE TO BE CERTAIN.
BIGUGLYMONSTERTEETHCLAWS-SAMHUMPHJERK
WE NEED TO COMMUNICATE WITH HIM.
NO PROBLEM.
OUR FRIEND, DOUG RAMSEY, IS A MUTANT, AN' HIS GIFT IS LANGUAGES. TROUBLE IS, HE DOESN'T KNOW ABOUT US.
"DO WE HAVE THE RIGHT TO BLOW OUR COVER WITHOUT PROFESSOR XAVIER'S PERMISSION? UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES, DO WE HAVE A CHOICE ?!"
AT THAT MOMENT, IN THE CONTROL BOOTH OVERLOOKING THE DANGER ROOM, WHEREIN BOTH NEW MUTANTS AND X-MEN HONE THEIR VARIOUS ABILITIES...


FORM RESTORED... FUNCTION DETERIORATING...
...GUARDIANS MOST TENACIOUS... DID NOT WISH... DESTROY THEM...
NEXUS... ENERGY SOURCE... FAR BELOW, DEEP WITHIN PLANETARY CRUST... TOO WEAK TO REACH IT...
...MUST ATTRACT ATTENTION... OF INHABITANTS-- EXPLAIN MYSELF.
TAK
TAK
TAK
TAK
TAK
TAK
TAK
TAK
HOWEVER, AS WARLOCK ACTIVATES THE COMPUTERS HE UNWITTINGLY ENGAGES THE ROOM'S ULTRA-SOPHISTICATED HOLOGRAPHIC PROJECTION SYSTEM, FILLING THE AIR AROUND HIM WITH A COLLAGE OF ABSTRACT IMAGES.
THEY COMPREHEND SIMPLE BINARY-- THEY ARE RESPONDING!
BUT ARE THOSE LIGHTS THEIR MEANS OF SPEECH, OR THE ENTITIES, THEMSELVES?
PLEASE-- AID ME, I BEG YOU...
...GRANT ME SANCTUARY!
CRASH
CAN... DUPLICATE LIGHTS-- BUT... NO IDEA WHAT I AM SAYING.
DO THEY UNDERSTAND? DO THEY CARE?!
PERHAPS... IT IS AS MAGUSFATHER SAYS: I AM NOT FIT TO LIVE.
HE DOESN'T LOOK SO SCARY NOW-- KIND OF PATHETIC, ACTUALLY-- WHAT'S HE DOING?
TALKING, PROBABLY.
DOUG! HELLO!
THIS IS CRAZY, BOBBY, OR I AM. A DREAM, MAYBE--
--OR ONE OF YOUR IDIOT PRACTICAL JOKES?
I WISH!

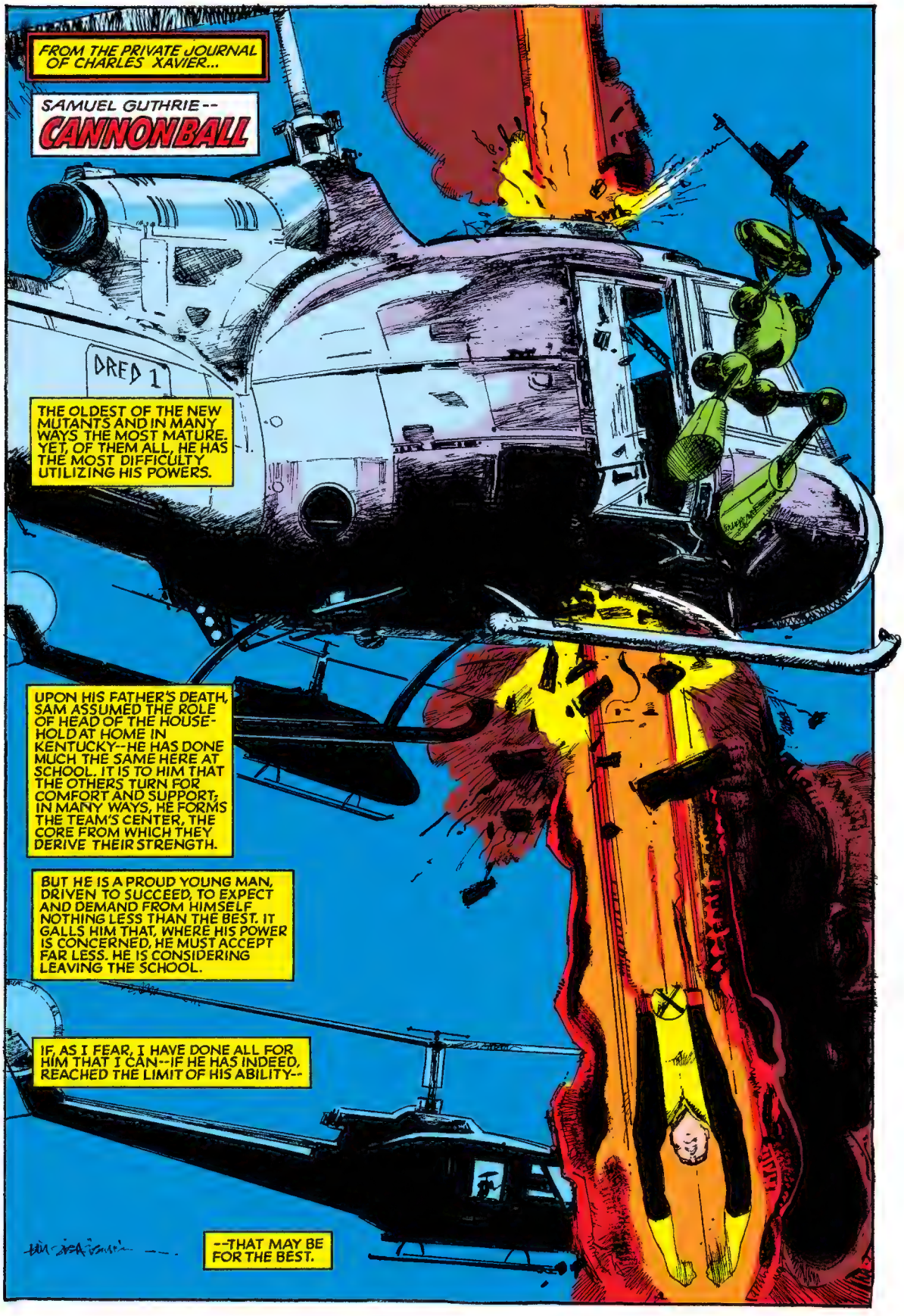
NOT HALF AS MUCH AS I DO.
SHOW ME HOW TO WORK THIS CONSOLE.
YOU'RE UPSET.
HOW WOULD YOU FEEL IF A SUPPOSED PAL YANKS YOU OUT OF A SOUND SLEEP, INFORMS YOU HE'S A MUTANT-- AND *YOU'RE* A MUTANT-- AND FLIES YOU TO HIS PLACE TO ESTABLISH A MEANINGFUL DIALOGUE WITH A POTENTIALLY HOSTILE *ALIEN!?!*
=SHEESH!=
WHAT'RE Y' DOIN', DOUG?
"WITH ANY LUCK, EXPLAINING THE ORIGIN AND STRUCTURE OF LIFE ON EARTH.
THE IDEA'S TO SHOW THAT *WE'RE* THE DOMINANT SPE--
WHOULF!
GRRR
GET AWAY, DOUG!
I DON'T KNOW WHICH IS WEIRDER, THE ALIEN OR RAHNE THE WEREWOLF!
"HE SURE LEARNS FAST--HE'S USING THE COMPUTER TO PROJECT HOLOGRAPHIC IMAGES OF HIS OWN.
"THAT MUST BE *HIS* WORLD.
"FAN*TAS*TIC--ITS LIFEFORMS EVOLVED INTO A SYNTHESIS OF 'MAN' AND MACHINE.
A *CRECHE*--BABIES THERE ARE MASS-PRODUCED ON A BIOLOGICAL ASSEMBLY LINE.
OCH, THE POOR WEE LONELY BAIRNS.
"THAT'S CUTE--EACH TIME A KID'S DECANTED--'BORN'--
"--HE FACES THAT ADULT VERSION OF HIMSELF--HIS 'FATHER', MAYBE--IN SINGLE COMBAT, TO THE DEATH!


"HECKUVA RELATIONSHIP--HEADS UP, THERE'S OUR BOY!
"SMART MOVE! HE DECIDED HE DIDN'T LIKE THE GAME...
"...SO HE SPLIT.
"Uh-oh--DAD'S HOT ON HIS TRAIL.
"HE RAN AS HARD AND FAST AS HE COULD...
"...AND ENDED UP HERE.
"HE'S AFTER SANCTUARY, OR EVEN ALLIES AGAINST HIS DAD.
"INSTEAD, HE FOUND US."
FAILURE. SHAME. DISGRACE. TO CONSUME A FELLOW SENTIENT--THE ULTIMATE CRIME--AND THEY ARE BUT CHILDREN--!
HIS HAND'S SHAKIN'!
HE'S AT THE END OF HIS ROPE, SAM.
DYIN', Y' MEAN?
WE GONNA DO ANYTHING ABOUT IT?
WHAT, SAVE HIM?!
THAT'S CRAZY! WHAT IF WE MISUNDERSTOOD THE PICTURES HE SHOWED US, WHAT IF HE WAS LYING?!
DOUGLAS, WHAT'RE Y' DOIN'?!
PLAYING WITH LIGHT AND SOUND, LIKE IN "CLOSE ENCOUNTERS" TRYING TO EVOLVE A COMMON BASIS FOR A LANGUAGE, THEN THE LANGUAGE ITSELF, SO WE CAN TALK TO HIM BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE.
SEE, HE'S ANSWERING, REPLICATING MY PATTERN!
...SADNESS... ANGER... SO CLOSE... UNFAIR... LIFEGLOW AT MINIMUM... CANNOT THINK ...REASON... SO WEARY...

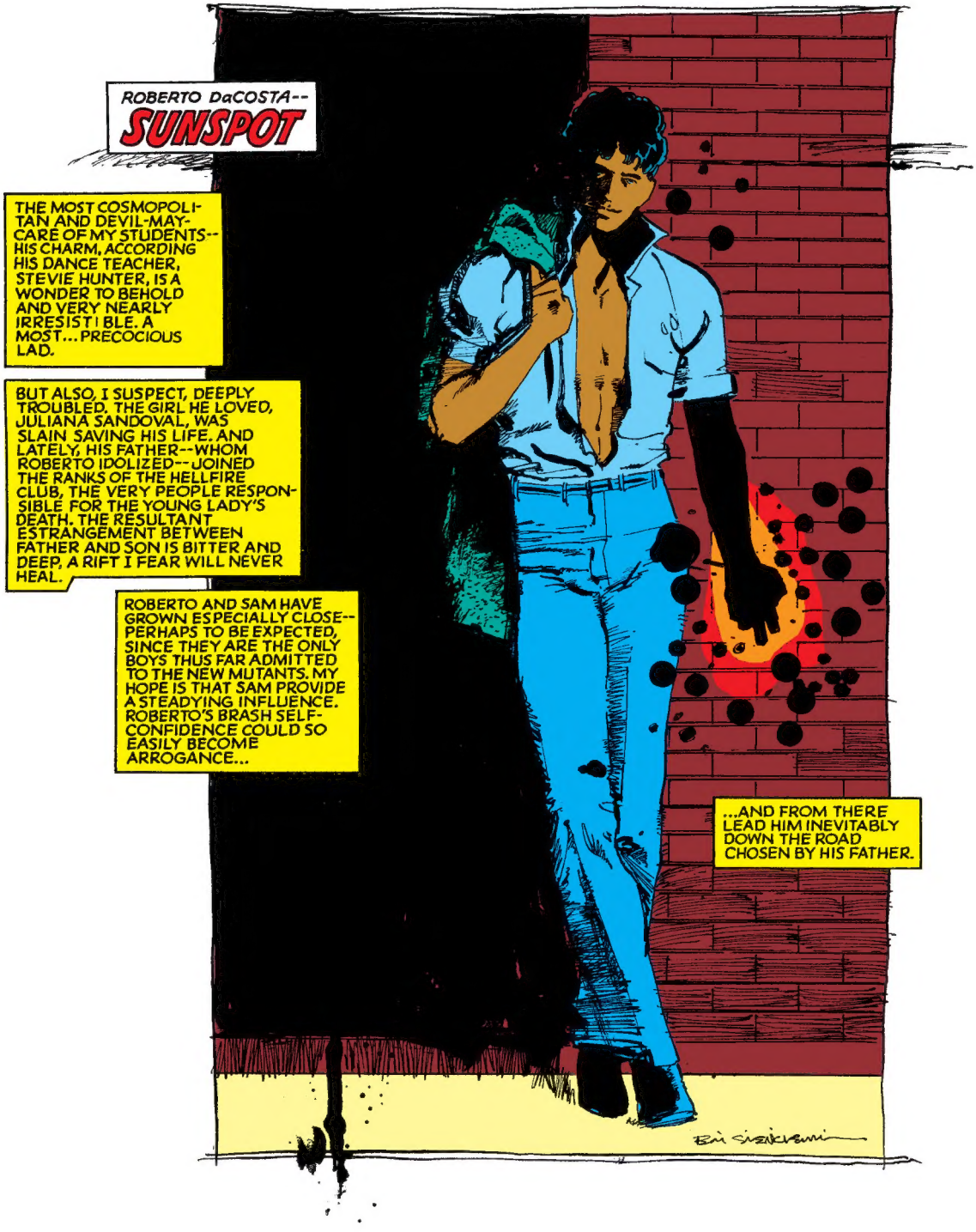

HELP HIM!!
WE CANNA ABANDON THE LAD! HE'S THE SAME AS ME-- AS ALL OF US-- CAST OUT AN' HATED BY THOSE WHO RAISED US, SIMPLY B'CAUSE OF WHAT WE ARE, THROWN INTO A NEW PLACE, AMONG STRANGERS-- IN MY CASE, FORCED T' REDEFINE EV'RY BELIEF THAT ONCE RULED MY LIFE!
I SURVIVED--HARD THOUGH THA' STRUGGLE STILL REMAINS --B'CAUSE I HAVE FRIENDS WHO CARE FOR ME, WHO'RE WILLING TO STAND BY ME, NO MATTER WHAT!
DENY HIM AN' IN A WAY, Y' DENY ME. Y' DENY EV'RY-THE NEW MUTANTS STAND FOR AN'RE MEANT T'BE!
AND IF THAT MEANS ONE OF US BECOMING LIKE HIM, RAHNE--
--PERHAPS EVEN DYING?!
THEN, 'BERTO, IT'S A SACRIFICE I'M WILLIN' T' MAKE.
RAHNE, DON'T!
LEGGO!
WE HAVE TO TRUST HIM!
I'M STILL ME--
--BUT THE ALIEN'S HAND'S BECOME A PLUG!
CAN Y' REACH YON OUTLET?!
JOY!
STRENGTH!
HEALTH!
...YOUTHANK...
...FRIEND...?
Y'SPEAK!?!
AYE, FRIEND-- AYE!

LATER...
WERE THE X-MEN EVER THIS YOUNG?
CERTAINLY NOT SO EXUBERANT.
DEALING WITH THESE YOUNGSTERS MAY WELL, I FEAR, AGE ME BEFORE MY TIME.
I HOPE THEY ENJOY...
...TIDYING UP THEIR MESS AS MUCH AS MAKING IT.
STILL, IT'S GOOD THE NEW MUTANTS ARE MAKING FRIENDS THEIR OWN AGE, OUTSIDE THE SCHOOL-- eh?!?
WHAT THE DEVIL?!!
THE LIVING ROOM IS A SHAMBLES--IT'S *SCORCHED*-- AND THAT HOLE--?!
WERE THEY ATTACKED, WAS THERE A BATTLE--?!!
NOBODY MOVE! WHERE IS THAT UGLY CRITTER, LEMME AT HIM!!
ILLYANA!?!
WHERE DID YOU COME FROM? WHAT'S THE MEANING OF THAT COSTUME?!
PROFESSOR XAVIER!
BOY, AM I GLAD YOU'RE HERE-- HAVE *I* GOT A STORY TO TELL!
AN EXPLANATION WILL SUFFICE.
I THINK, SIR...
...YOU'D BETTER TURN AROUND.
PROFESSOR, AH KNOW THIS BENDS THE RULES A SHADE, BUT WE'D LIKE TO INTRODUCE A CANDIDATE FOR ADMISSION TO THE SCHOOL AN' THE NEW MUTANTS.
DO I TAKE HIS HAND OR SEND HIM AWAY?
HE ISN'T HUMAN, BUT HE NEEDS OUR PROTECTION AN' YOUR TEACHIN'. HE HAS NOWHERE ELSE TO GO, SIR.
HIS NAME'S *WARLOCK*.
HONORED... IS SELF, YOUR ACQUAINTANCE TO... MAKE, PROFESSOR. MY... LIFE IS YOURS.
WHO ARE THESE CHILDREN TO MAKE SUCH CRITICAL DECISIONS-- WITH NEITHER MY KNOWLEDGE OR CONSENT?!!

THEY ARE MY STUDENTS, IN LARGE MEASURE WHAT I HAVE MADE THEM. I CAN SEE FROM THEIR THOUGHTS THAT THEY ACT FROM THE BEST AND MOST NOBLE OF MOTIVES. IF THIS YOUNG BEING IS WORTHY OF THEIR TRUST...
... HE IS WORTHY OF MINE.
A BEGINNING.


FROM THE PRIVATE JOURNAL OF CHARLES XAVIER...
SAMUEL GUTHRIE --
CANNONBALL
DRED 1
THE OLDEST OF THE NEW MUTANTS AND IN MANY WAYS THE MOST MATURE. YET, OF THEM ALL, HE HAS THE MOST DIFFICULTY UTILIZING HIS POWERS.
UPON HIS FATHER'S DEATH, SAM ASSUMED THE ROLE OF HEAD OF THE HOUSEHOLD AT HOME IN KENTUCKY--HE HAS DONE MUCH THE SAME HERE AT SCHOOL. IT IS TO HIM THAT THE OTHERS TURN FOR COMFORT AND SUPPORT; IN MANY WAYS, HE FORMS THE TEAM'S CENTER, THE CORE FROM WHICH THEY DERIVE THEIR STRENGTH.
BUT HE IS A PROUD YOUNG MAN, DRIVEN TO SUCCEED, TO EXPECT AND DEMAND FROM HIMSELF NOTHING LESS THAN THE BEST. IT GALLS HIM THAT, WHERE HIS POWER IS CONCERNED, HE MUST ACCEPT FAR LESS. HE IS CONSIDERING LEAVING THE SCHOOL.
IF, AS I FEAR, I HAVE DONE ALL FOR HIM THAT I CAN--IF HE HAS INDEED, REACHED THE LIMIT OF HIS ABILITY--
--THAT MAY BE FOR THE BEST.

ILLYANA NIKOLOVNA RASPUTIN--
MAGIK
A RIDDLE WRAPPED WITHIN AN ENIGNMA--
--HALF HER LIFETIME SPENT ON EARTH, HALF IN AN OTHER-DIMENSIONAL LIMBO, PRISONER AND DISCIPLE OF ITS DAEMONIC OVERLORD.
SHE IS A FORMIDABLE SORCERESS IN HER OWN RIGHT...
...AND A MUTANT AS WELL, ABLE TO TELEPORT THROUGH BOTH SPACE AND TIME. I KNOW TOO LITTLE TO PROPERLY EVALUATE HER ABILITIES AS THE ONE, AND AS FOR THE OTHER--HOW DO I INSTRUCT HER WHEN NEITHER OF US...
...KNOWS PRECISELY WHERE, OR WHEN, HER POWER WILL TAKE HER?!
AND YET, SOMEHOW, I MUST FIND A WAY.
1984


ROBERTO DaCOSTA--
SUNSPOT
THE MOST COSMOPOLITAN AND DEVIL-MAY-CARE OF MY STUDENTS--HIS CHARM, ACCORDING HIS DANCE TEACHER, STEVIE HUNTER, IS A WONDER TO BEHOLD AND VERY NEARLY IRRESISTIBLE. A MOST... PRECOCIOUS LAD.
BUT ALSO, I SUSPECT, DEEPLY TROUBLED. THE GIRL HE LOVED, JULIANA SANDOVAL, WAS SLAIN SAVING HIS LIFE. AND LATELY, HIS FATHER--WHOM ROBERTO IDOLIZED--JOINED THE RANKS OF THE HELLFIRE CLUB, THE VERY PEOPLE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE YOUNG LADY'S DEATH. THE RESULTANT ESTRANGEMENT BETWEEN FATHER AND SON IS BITTER AND DEEP, A RIFT I FEAR WILL NEVER HEAL.
ROBERTO AND SAM HAVE GROWN ESPECIALLY CLOSE--PERHAPS TO BE EXPECTED, SINCE THEY ARE THE ONLY BOYS THUS FAR ADMITTED TO THE NEW MUTANTS. MY HOPE IS THAT SAM PROVIDE A STEADYING INFLUENCE. ROBERTO'S BRASH SELF-CONFIDENCE COULD SO EASILY BECOME ARROGANCE...
...AND FROM THERE LEAD HIM INEVITABLY DOWN THE ROAD CHOSEN BY HIS FATHER.

REPORT CARD

% MARVEL COMICS GROUP
387 Park Avenue South
New York, New York 10016

ANN NOCENTI
EDITOR
PETER SANDERSON
ASSISTANT EDITOR

As you see, we have a new title for our letters page that we think is appropriate for Professor Xavier's school. So from now on, please address your letters of comment to "Report Card," and if you don't want us to print your full address with your letter, please tell us so.

Dear Louise, *et al*,

Hi, guys! Just a few general remarks about NEW MUTANTS #9. The title, "Arena," says it all. Well, almost. I must admit, Amara remains a mystery. However, correlating the few facts that I have ("You see, but you do not observe, Watson!"), the following chain of thought has its being.

Primus: Amara is subject to strange, painful "attacks" that have no perceptible cause (remember a young lady named Kitty Pryde and her migraines?).

Secundus: Somehow, unintentionally and unexpectedly, Dani probed Amara's mind and displayed her worst fear. "Fine," you say, but that simply *isn't supposed to happen anymore!*

Tertius: Not mentioning any names, but certain people — namely our illustrious scripter and his editor — are publicly known to be very tricky!

Quartus: Add a liberal dash of hunch, and . . .

Conclusion: The Lady Amara Juliana, etc., etc. *is a mutant!*

Elementary, my dear Jones! Do you think that's worth a No-Prize?

Lee Cavett
10879 Radford
Houston, Texas 77099

My dear Cavett, our response to your query is, we are certain, the one that would be utilized by a certain world-renowned consulting detective whose abilities and talents you so admirably echo, namely that the act of deduction is in and of itself sufficient reward. Congratulations, though, on a job well done!

Dear Louise & Co.,

Well, after reading nine issues of the NEW MUTANTS, I've come to a decision. Yep, I'm gonna start *buying* them!!

Due to the varied personalities of the group, the dialogue is always exciting. All the plots have been entertaining. I trust you will follow up the Shaw / Gyrich / Rossi plot of NM #2 soon.

In response to some letters you've been publishing:

1) There seems to be a lot of complaints about your stereotyping of racial characteristics. It is unfair to assume that all British people are superstitious and naive but, on the other hand, a character such as Rahne's adds interest to the book, and after all, she had to be born somewhere. However, are you sure that's Portuguese that Roberto is speaking?

2) People who say that "Cannonball is practically useless," or that Rahne and Dani shouldn't be in the group are ignoring the most important point of this series, namely that these are *new* mutants. They're at Xavier's to learn about their powers, not to be super heroes. We don't want a carbon copy of THE X-MEN. And to be realistic, there is no reason why a mutant power should be "useful."

Two more points: A) Roberto looked gorgeous all through NM #9, and B) how do you pronounce "Rahne?"

Anne Raine
817 Carbonate St.
Nelson, BC, Canada V1L 4R2

Last things first, Anne, We pronounce Rahne's name the same way you pronounce your last name (we hope) — that is, "rain," as in what falls from the sky. As for your point about this book taking place at a *school*, one or more of our characters may yet flunk out. How will they deal with that? Will they then turn to the Hellfire Club, feeling that Xavier has abandoned them?

Dear Editors:

The plot in NEW MUTANTS #9 was the silliest, stupidest, most used and dullest thing I've ever read. But the art was good.

Anthony Padilla
3701 Oakgreen Avenue, N
Sillwater, MN 55082

To paraphrase an old saying: you can't please all the people all the time (but we're trying!).

Dear Marvel:

This is the ninth and last issue of THE NEW MUTANTS that I shall purchase at this point in time because the stories either drag or create *deja vu* with previous X-MEN storylines and plots, and Danielle Moonstar has an uncanny ideological and / or stereotypical resemblance to John Proudstar — Thunderbird — who was the *only* member of the new X-Men to be killed off! The kids are ugly, unimaginative, unbelievable stereotypes!

Hey, I've got an idea: why don't you drop these kids and put Storm, Colossus, Wolverine and Nightcrawler — plus the tactless and tacky Kitty Pryde — in THE NEW MUTANTS and then put Cyclops, Angel, Iceman, Polaris, and Havok back in the original X-MEN magazine. Believe me, you'll sleep a whole lot easier and the world will thank you.

Professor Azimuth
Parkhurst Hotel
11 Lincoln Park
Newark, New Jersey 07102

Out of curiosity, Prof, what resemblance *is* there between Dani and Thunderbird, other than the fact they're both Indians?

Dear Editor:

In these days, when Reagan is being given quite a going over in the press, it's a pleasure to see NEW MUTANTS #10, a comic book in which the Republicans are the *good guys!* (Okay, okay, so it's not the same Republicans — I couldn't resist the comment.)

Actually, "Betrayal" did come off rather well in the political department. It's nice to see some political machinations in a comic book that actually make sense and even have a degree of subtlety to them. It's also a welcome event to see the New Mutants agonize over which side to support. Too often, the visiting heroes seem to fall automatically in with the "right" side, but the nature and identity of evil are not always so readily apparent. It is interesting that Sam took Gallio's "slick talk" as a clue to his devious intentions. Often it is the ones with something to hide who have the smoothest words, because they have to consider carefully what they say in order not to let slip any incriminating facts.

"T.M. Maple"
Toronto, Ontario, Canada

Dear Students:

A few questions:

Rahne, is one aspect of your mutant abilities the power to age in reverse? NEW MUTANTS #2 listed you as fourteen years old, whereas #10 described you as "a 13-year old Scots werewolf." Also, where are your fangs while you're in human form? (They were present in MARVEL GRAPHIC NOVEL #4.) Show 'em off! I, for one, found them fascinating!

Sam, who supports your family *now?*

Roberto, doesn't your hand hurt after delivering a blow that could "pulverize a fair-sized building?" We've been told you're not invulnerable. Perhaps you have the power to defy Newton's Third Law!

By the way, I *love* your book!

David Riley
Central College
Pella, Iowa 50219

Rahne's 13, David; the age reference in NM #2 — seen on a data screen at "Project Wideawake" — was wrong, someone who programmed those federal government computers having made a mistake. The fangs are still there, but Rahne, being a shy and modest young lass, doesn't like showing them. Some assistance is provided Sam's family by Professor Xavier; the rest comes from Social Security and other government and union pension benefits, plus money earned by his mom and brothers and sisters. His is a proud, hard-working family; they make do as best they can. And, finally, it seems evident from all the examples seen thus far that Roberto's power protects his fist when he's punching, or foot when kicking; it simply doesn't make the rest of him immune to pain or injury at the same time. (PS — We love your letter, too! Thanks a lot!)

Comments:

Mr. Claremont, your Latin stinks! I hate to say it, but it's true.

Of course, no one can expect you to get it all right, but if we see mistakes in our favorite books, we have to point them out! Understanding your limits of time and expertise, I shall try to keep this short and simple. Your research about Rome and creative powers of reconstruction are terrific. It's little syntactical errors that bug me. First, if these *Novi Romani* spoke ancient Latin, then Roberto would probably have as much trouble as you would understanding them! Reading it, he could probably make as much sense out of it as you could out of

an old volume of the original manuscript of Chaucer. But spoken — ? Even Latin scholars have problems recognizing Latin words when spoken! Take the word "nova." It was pronounced, as near as experts can tell, as "nowa," as in Noah. Even accenting the wrong syllable can make all the difference. Little case endings change the usage, tense and voice of a word, not to mention person. I translated a small passage from NEW MUTANTS #9: read it to someone who knows Portuguese and see how much he understands!

LUCIUS: Marcus Domitus, ha beamne verbum cum te?

MARCUS: Aquila, iturus sum. Gravis publica res.

LUCIUS: Agentes cum captisne peregrinis hoc mane?

GUARD: Dominus Gallius, quam poteratne scire? —

MARCUS: Quin taces, centurio.

LUCIUS: Credo illus esse liberos — duo pueros et trini puellas.

MARCUS: Tuus speculatores te bene informantem conservant, idem semper.

LUCIUS: Antepono scire eos patrilis civibus. Narra mihi, quat sunt consilia in captivis?

MARCUS: Lex est disertissima, Aquila. Ea facit nullas condiciones pro aetate. Puen eunt ad harena, et si superabunt, jungent puellas in salivae trunso . . . sub hasta vendi servito.

Of course, my own Latin's not so hot, but it should be somewhat understandable. There's another thing about names. Most Romans have three names: the *praenoman* or first name, the *nomen* or gens name, meaning the name of his clan or tribe, and the *cognomen*, or family name. Occasionally, a fourth name is given as a great honor to a very few, but it is extremely rare, and is usually something like Africanus. Your Amara should not have an "Olivia," and the Juliana should be Antonius or Antonia (I'm not sure exactly which. Names have very strange declensions of their own.) Another thing wrong is that Antonius and Aquilius (the proper way to spell it) are both "gens" names. The members of that clan are quite illustrious (Aquilius = eagle); one member was a friend of Cicero's and a famous orator in his own right — Gaius Aquilius Gallus. However, if you really want Antonius for a "gens" name, one of his relatives is Marcus Antonius Triumvir — Mark Anthony! And this is the name of the guy you want to call a plebeian! By the way, your evil guy has names that literally do not exist (that little "I" makes all the difference).

Finally, did you know that an "X-Man," according to the dictionary, is actually a person who works in the dead letter office of the US Postal Service?

Kathy Li
1653 Alta La Jolla Drive
La Jolla, California 92307

Wow! Kathy, letters like yours truly make our day, because they enable those of us who work on the books to learn something new and delightfully different about our work! (For those of you who care to compare translation to original, by the way, the scene Kathy excerpted occurs — we think — in NEW MUTANTS #9, page 7, panels 2-5.) By the way, as noted in a later issue, Kathy, Roberto speaks Latin, though we concede a point may have been (severely) stretched by allowing him to understand classical Roman speech. There is a reason for Amara's clan and family names being what they are, and it'll be revealed anon. However, anytime you want to help us out, either with translations or tidbits of social information, please feel free. It's really nice to see someone who cares so much — kind of makes us think we're actually doing something right!

Dear Editor:

A few notes regarding NEW MUTANTS #12 (and other stuff, too!):

1) On page 15, panels 2 & 3, Rahne can't follow Amara's trail because of all the "sulpher" in the air. What, pray tell, is this mythical Marvel mixture? I've heard of sulfur and sulphur, but sulpher?

2) On page 20, panel 5, Flor says: "Her heart's desire . . . it's death! Not only for Amara, but for all the New Mutants!" Is Flor a closet psychic or something? How would she know about the New Mutants and what Amara's name was?

3) Yahoo — Amara's joining the New Mutants! I'm so happy! She'll make a good New Mutant, and she and her powers are so new and vibrant that I can't help but love her.

4) While I was browsing through this issue, I noticed that Amara can use her powers without turning into that hideous, swirly, orange thing. Granted, she is a mutant, but even mutants are basically human, so, please, leave her human!

5) This is NEW MUTANTS #12! That means the book has been in publication for a year. How about a saga and a not-so-annual annual?

6) I know what there is to know — so far — about Illyana, but is she a true mutant or is she merely trained in the Arts Arcane?

7) Whatever happened to the "powerful, malefic psychic entity" we saw so much of in NEW MUTANTS and X-MEN?

8) Why does my copy of this month's NEW MUTANTS have the Bullpen Bulletins page from *last* month?

Joel Kinstle
Corryton-Luttrell Road
Corryton, Tennessee 37721

In order, Joel: 1) It's obvious — Rahne sneezed. "Sulpher" is the pronunciation you get when you sneeze while saying, "sulfur" or "sulphur." 2) Let's face it, Joel, she took the words right out of Dani's mouth! 3) As the saying goes, "to know her, etc . . . " — we can only hope this is part of a worldwide trend! 4) Gee, we think she looks kind of neat — fiery, like the sun. Besides, pal, considering what she can do, do you really want to be the one to tell Amara she looks hideous? 5) You want it, Joel, you got it — one NEW MUTANTS ANNUAL, coming your way this summer, illustrated by the kids' own co-creator, Bob McLeod! 6) She's both. 7) Which "powerful, malefic, psychic entity?" 8) Gremlins.

Marvelites:

When you first started the NEW MUTANTS you were doing a pretty good job. Not that you're slipping, but why must you have a mutual hate society between the Mutants and Kitty Pryde? What I mean is, you're presenting a conflict between the two groups; if you combine them to fight a super-villain, there will undoubtedly be a conflict. As for Amara, she is definitely disturbed by the jump to this supposedly modern society. Take it easy on the poor girl. How would you like to go from the unmechanized world of *Nova Roma* to a world of electric can openers? By the way, Sam may be 16, but he sure doesn't act it, showing off in front of Amara. I can sympathize with the guy but *geez!*

David Preston
202-55 Soundview Ave.
Stamford, Connecticut 06902

By now, as you've no doubt seen, David, the conflict between Kitty and the New Mutants is pretty much over. However, one of the most fascinating elements of Amara's character is how she copes with the culture shock of being thrust from the 1st century to the 21st — and if you thought she had a problem dealing with Rio de Janeiro, wait'll you see her first real visit to *New York*, in X-MEN #189! And give Sam a break, willya. Sure he acts like a jerk in front of Amara but what else do you expect from a guy in love?!

Hi!

I know you get a lot of mail, so I'll keep it short. On page 13, of NM #12, the policeman doesn't think anything bad about Amara until she speaks English. Then, all of a sudden, she *must* be on drugs. A tragically clear reflection of the current state of affairs and of the way the rest of the world looks at Americans. A shining ray of realism in a world of pseudo-fantasy. Thank you.

Jesse Raley
PO Box 7
Laurel Hill, NC 28351

Actually, Jesse, the point wasn't to show the policeman's hostility to Americans *per se*, but to foreigners, an attitude regrettably shared even in the United States. Here, too, people find themselves the objects of suspicion and even prejudice simply because of where they come from, and through no fault of their own. That's the sad reality, my friend, one we should all work to change for the better.

Dear Everyone:

I can well understand Rahne's preferring to be a wolf than a girl. Rahne must face the toughest challenge she ever will . . . growing up! In her lupine form, she does not have to contend with all the pressure and general confusion that comes with this time. She simply escapes into a world where "life is so simple and uncomplicated."

All teenagers do this in some form. Some ways are harmless (daydreaming, comic books, etc.). Others, such as alcohol and drugs, can destroy or end their young lives. My hope is that Rahne will find the courage to face and accept all the difficulties of the real world and not cheat herself of the opportunity of being an adult by remaining a wolf forever.

Melissa Cook
Box 336 / Route 3
Bethel Springs, Tennessee 38315

So do we, Melissa.

NEXT ISSUE: Warlock's here — and Doug Ramsey, too, much to Professor Xavier's surprise — now what the heck is he going to *do* with them both?! At the same time, something strange — and terrifying — is happening to Roberto and Rahne, with consequences that reach far beyond the New Mutants. In 30 days — "THE SHADOW WITHIN!"

Digitized by

Syl3nt Bob and PhD

He's a gonna be OKAY!

I think...